GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved and announced New National Telecom Policy recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof along with the aims and objectives of the new policy;

(c) whether the Government has announced that no roaming charges will be levied on customers under new policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the new policy is likely to increase the rural tele-density and broad band internet service in the rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) Yes Madam, Union Cabinet has approved National Telecom Policy-2012 on 31st May, 2012.

(b) Salient features alongwith vision, mission and objectives of National Telecom Policy-2012 are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) Objectives of National Telecom Policy-2012 inter-alia include to Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.

(e) National Telecom Policy-2012 inter-alia includes the following strategies regarding Broadband, Rural Telephony and Universal Service Obligation Fund:

\# Increase rural teledensity from the current level of around 39 to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.

\# Provide affordable and reliable broadband-on-demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.

\# To develop an eco-system for broadband in close coordination with all stakeholders, including Ministries/ Government Departments/ Agencies to ensure availability of media for last mile access, aggregation layer, core network of adequate capacity, affordable equipment including user devices, terminals and Customer Premise Equipment and an environment for development of relevant applications. Formulate policies to promote competition by encouraging service providers, whether large or small, to provide value added services under equitable and non-discriminatory conditions.

\# To recognise telecom, including broadband connectivity as a basic necessity like education and health and work towards 'Right to Broadband'.

\# To lay special emphasis on providing reliable and affordable broadband access to rural and remote areas by appropriate combination of optical fibre, wireless, VSAT and other technologies. Optical fibre network will be initially laid up to the village panchayat level by funding from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Extension of optical fibre connectivity from village panchayats to be taken up progressively to all villages and habitations. Access to this Optical Fibre Network will be open, non-discriminatory and technology neutral.

\# Provide appropriate incentives for rural rollout.

\# To revise the existing broadband download speed of 256 Kbps to 512 Kbps and subsequently to 2 Mbps by 2015 and higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps thereafter.

\# To incorporate enabling provisions in the current regulatory framework so that existing infrastructure including cable TV networks are optimally utilised for extending high quality broadband services in rural areas also.

\# To establish appropriate institutional framework to coordinate with different government departments/agencies for laying and upkeep of telecom cables including Optical Fibre Cables for rapid expansion of broadband in the country.

\# To leverage the mobile device and SIM Card with enhanced features for enabling secure transactional services including online authentication of identity and financial services.

\# To promote synergies between roll-out of broadband and various Government programs viz e- governance, e-panchayat, MNREGA, NKN, AADHAR, AAKASH tablet etc.

\# To ensure availability of adequate spectrum to meet current and future demand for microwave access/ backhaul, in appropriate frequency bands.

\# To stimulate the demand of broadband applications and services, work closely with Department of IT in the promotion of local content creation in regional languages which would enhance the investment in All-Internet Protocol (IP) networks including NGN.

\# To promote the use of energy efficient equipment and renewable energy technologies to achieve long term sustainability.

\# To undertake periodic review of methodology adopted for utilising USO fund and benchmarking the same against the best practices followed in other countries.

\# To provide continued support from USO fund for telecom services, including converged communication services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas.