

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:564

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015

NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and vision of the National Telecom Policy, 2012;

(b) whether the tele-density in some States is below the national average; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to augment communication services in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the target set and achieved so far in this regard, State-wise and the funds allocated and spent under NTP to fulfil its objectives?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 564 FOR 6th MAY, 2015 REGARDING "NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY" 2012".

(a) The vision of the National Telecom Policy, 2012 (NTP-12) is to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development. Major objectives of NTP-12 related to provision of broadband and mobile services primarily in rural and remote areas are placed at Annexure-I.

(b) The National tele-density is 78.73 as on February, 2015. The details of overall tele-density, Licensed Service Area (LSA) wise, as on February, 2015 as per data published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is placed at Annexure-II. LSAs of Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States and Rajasthan have tele-density below the National level. The variation in tele-density is primarily due to socio-economic advancement and availability of adequate telecom infrastructure in the area.

(c)&(d) Government has initiated various steps to augment communication services in the rural areas, which inter alia include provision of high bandwidth broadband access to approximately 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats through National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, provision of 2G mobile coverage in 55,669 uncovered villages in a phased manner over a period of five years. Project for provision of mobile connectivity in 8,621 uncovered villages in North-Eastern Region has already been approved in September, 2014. Draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) for provision of 2G mobile services in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand has also been prepared. The plan of the Department in this regard is placed at Annexure-III.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is being utilised for the purpose of providing /augmenting the communication services in remote and rural areas. The fund allocated and spent in respect of USOF for the last three financial years are given as under:

Fund allotment and expenditure in respect of USOF till 31.03.2015

(Amount in crore)

Financial Year	Allotment (RE)	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	625.00	625.00
2013-14	3000.00	2163.45
2014-15	2086.98	2086.98