

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3560
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced and implemented New National Telecom Policy;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is committed to provide telecom and internet facility to every citizen in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government proposes to relax the prescribed norms for setting up mobile towers particularly in sparsely populated areas such as desert and hilly areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Government had released the National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12) on 31.5. 2012 which envisages to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development. The salient features of NTP-12, inter alia, include the following:-

Increase rural teledensity to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.

Provision of 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.

Provision of high speed and high quality broadband access to all village panchayats through a combination of technologies by the year 2014 and progressively to all villages and habitations by 2020.

One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability, One Nation Free Roaming.

Put in place a simplified Merger & Acquisition regime in telecom service sector while ensuring adequate competition.

To delink spectrum in respect of all future licences. Spectrum shall be made available at a price determined through market related processes.

To move at the earliest towards liberalisation of spectrum to enable use of spectrum in any band to provide any service in any technology as well as to permit spectrum pooling, sharing and later, trading to enable optimal utilisation of spectrum through appropriate regulatory framework.

Create a corpus to promote indigenous R&D, IPR creation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, commercialisation and deployment of state-of-the-art telecom products and services during the 12th five year plan period.

To promote setting up of Telecommunications Standard Development Organisation (TSDO)

(c) to (e) Digital India programme envisions transformation of India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Department of Telecommunications has been entrusted with key tasks of building broadband highway and providing mobile connectivity in all unconnected villages across the country. National Optical Fibre Network project envisages provision of broadband connectivity to 2,50,000 village Panchayats. Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages is to be provided in a phased manner over five years. Providing mobile coverage to the uncovered villages in the North Eastern Region (NER) has been taken up initially as part of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for NER. Presently Government is not contemplating any proposal to relax the prescribed norms for setting up mobile towers particularly in sparsely populated areas such as desert and hilly areas as the present norms of the Department do not inhibit the setting up of towers particularly in sparsely populated areas.