

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1639
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
ENHANCEMENT OF SPEED OF 3G SERVICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has been planning to enhance the speed of Third Generation 3G services being provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the aforesaid project and the amount earmarked and spent in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to take effective steps for increasing the average connection speed and average peak speed of Internet in the country;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that it is upgrading its network and converting the transmission media to Internet Protocol (IP) media to enable delivery of 3G services. To improve coverage and data speed, BSNL is augmenting its network by adding IP based 10502 new Node Bs and 14263 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in the network as part of Phase VII expansion plan. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is augmenting its network by adding 1080 Node-Bs & 800 BTSs in Delhi and 1080 Node-Bs and 566 BTSs in Mumbai. The packet core capacity (Data handling capacity of network) will be increased from existing capacity of 400 Mbps (Delhi) and 1.8 Gbps (Mumbai) to 10 Gbps in both cities.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also upgrading their existing HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) 3G network supporting download speed of 3.6 Mbps & upload speed of 384 Kbps to support HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Access) with download speed of 21.1 Mbps and upload speed of 5.76 Mbps per sector in each Node-B. There is no separate fund earmarked in BSNL and MTNL for this purpose.

(c) to (f) Government is implementing the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) to lay incremental optical fibre to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats in the country. NOFN will provide bandwidth of 100 Mbps to each Gram Panchayat. The roll out of NOFN is expected to be completed by March, 2017.

The time limit for roll out of 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services by telecom service providers, for which spectrum was auctioned in year 2010 is five years i.e. 2015.

Government has increased the minimum download speed of broadband from 256 kbps to 512 kbps in July, 2013.