

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2502
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH DECEMBER, 2018**

SATELLITE PHONES

2502. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched the BSNL satellite phone service;
- (b) if so, the details along with the aims and objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the targeted objectives of the said services have been achieved till date and if so the details thereof;
- (d) the organizations which have provided this facility; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the BSNL to launch similar satellite phones in future?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched Global Satellite Phone Services (GSPS) with effect from 24.05.2017.
- (b) & (c) Department of Telecommunications granted a license to BSNL on 25.08.2014 for "Provision and Operation of Satellite based services using Gateway installed in India" under *sui-generis* category. Accordingly, BSNL has commissioned Satellite Gateway at Ghaziabad for Global Satellite Phone Service (GSPS) on 24.05.2017. Subsequently, BSNL has also started providing Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) services through Inmarsat-C Land Earth Station (LES) installed at Ghaziabad with effect from 12.12.2018.

The Global Satellite Phone Service aims to provide communication even in the remote and unconnected areas and to help in providing emergency communication service when no other means of communication is available. The GPS is particularly useful for security agencies, defence forces and for disaster relief works. The aim of GMDSS is to provide safety services to Maritime vehicles.

With the installation of Land Earth Station (Gateway) in India, the objective of lawful interception and monitoring of traffic passing through this Gateway is also fulfilled. As such, the targeted objectives have been achieved.

(d) The Global Satellite Phone Service has been provided by BSNL to various Government organizations, public sector/ private organizations and individuals.

(e) BSNL is in the process of upgrading the existing satellite gateway for providing Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) and for providing in-flight connectivity.
