

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2292
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2021**

STATUS OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUPPORTING 5G

2292. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of current status of telecom infrastructure in the country;
- (b) whether the current state of telecom infrastructure is adequate enough to support the 5G technology;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by Government to boost the level of telecom infrastructure;
- (d) whether Government-run operators like Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have taken necessary upgrades for adoption of 4G and 5G technologies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) Sir, as on 23-11-2021, there are 4,78,694 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of 2G, 1,73,940 BTSs of 3G and 16,47,065 BTSs of 4G technology installed over 6,85,923 towers in the country.

(b) & (c) The commercial services of 5G has not yet commenced in the Country. The Government has taken, inter alia, the following steps for creation of the conducive environment for launch of 5G services in the country:

- i) Permission has been granted to Telecom Service Providers for conducting 5G Technology trials during May 2021 with a validity period of up to one year,
- ii) An indigenous 5G Test Bed has been set up at a total cost of Rs. 224 crore to facilitate for experimenting and demonstrating 5G applications/ Use Cases.

(d) & (e) On 23.10.2019, the Union Cabinet approved administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Government also approved the allocation of spectrum of Delhi and Mumbai (i.e. MTNL areas) to BSNL to have PAN-India presence in 4G services. BSNL is presently conducting proof-of-concept trials for inducting indigenously developed 4G technology.

In addition, the Cabinet also approved the proposal to administratively allot spectrum to BSNL and MTNL for providing 5G services on the same principle as adopted for allotment of spectrum for 4G services. DoT has also granted permission to MTNL on 23.06.2021 for conducting 5G Technology trials with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) in Delhi Licensed Service Area (LSA).
