GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2775
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023

5G CONNECTIONS IN INDIA

2775   Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of cities in India covered under 5G connections by February 2023;

(b)   the proposed strategy for nationwide 5G connectivity deployment;

(c)   the estimated cost of 5G coverage for the entire country;

(d)   whether 5G technology increases the risk of hacking due to lack of encryption during the connection process, making devices using 5G technology easy targets for cyber-attacks; and

(e)   if so, the steps being taken by Government to address this security concern?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a)   5G services have been started in 329 cities distributed across all Licensed Service Areas (LSAs).

(b) & (c)   As per the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) dated 15-06-2022 for auction of spectrum and the license conditions, the rollout obligations are required to be met over a period of five years, in a phased manner, from the date of allocation of spectrum. Further expansion of mobile networks beyond the mandatory rollout obligations and the cost involved depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

(d) & (e)   No Sir, adequate encryption is available in 5G during the connection process. 3GPP has defined separate security architecture features and mechanisms for 5G system and 5G core including security procedures to be performed within the 5G system including core and radio part which also includes end to end encryption. Further, as per the license conditions, the licensee is completely and totally responsible for the security of its network.

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