Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India
New Delhi

Quarterly Newsletter
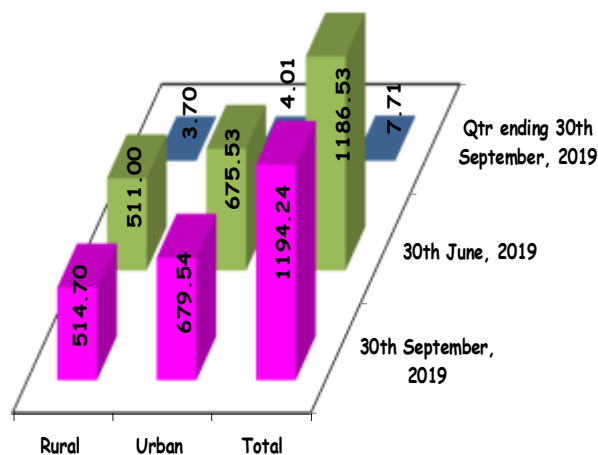## (July- September 2019)

Highlights of major developments in the Telecom sector as well as initiatives by the DoT, during the quarter ending **September, 2019**, are given in the following sections.
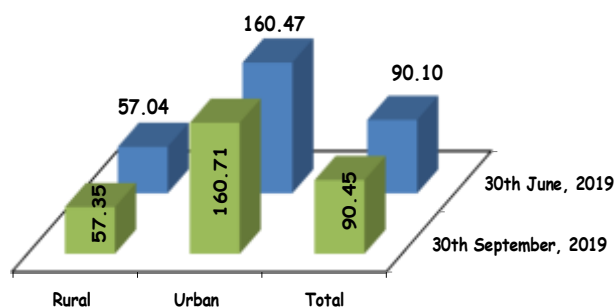
I. **TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS AND TELEDENSITY**

(i) Total telephones stood at 1194.25 million as on 30th September, 2019 from 1186.53 million on 30th June, 2019. This implies an increase of 7.71 million during the period, attributed to an increase in number of telephones in the private sector by 7.47 million during the period.

The tele-density, which was 90.10% in the beginning of the quarter increased to 90.45% by the end of the September, 2019.

Telephones

Tele-density

(ii) The preference for use of wireless is reflected in the share of wireless phones, which reached 98.27% (1173.61 million) as on 30th September, 2019. On the other hand, the share of wire line was 1.73% (20.63 million) as on 30th September, 2019.

(iii) In public sector, there was a slight increase of 0.24 million phones during the quarter ending September, 2019. However, in private sector there was increase of 7.47 million phones during the same period. The public sector had 133.63 million (11.19%) phones as against 1060.61 million (88.81%)phones of the private sector as on 30th September, 2019.

(iv) As on 30th September, 2019, the share of urban was 56.90% (679.55 million) compared to 43.10%(514.70 million) of rural areas. The rural tele-density stands at 57.35% as compared to the urban tele-density of 160.71% as on 30th September, 2019.

II. **INTERNET PENETRATION**

(i) Internet usage in the country is on a steady growth path. The number of Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) which was 560.01 million by the end of September, 2018 has increased to 687.54 million by the end of September, 2019, registering a quarterly growth of 3.34%.

(ii) The number of subscribers accessing internet via wireless phones etc. was 665.31 million and there were 22.23 million wired internet subscribers at the end of September, 2019. Wireless internet subscribers constitute 96.77% of the total internet subscribers.

(iii) The number of Broadband subscribers, which was 594.59 million at the end of June'19, increased to 625.42 million in September'19 with an increase of 30.83 million.

III. **Activities of DoT (July- September, 2019)**

a) Ambassador of Japan to India Kenji Hiramatsu and Hon'ble MOC discussed ways to enhance mutual cooperation between India and Japan in the field of telecommunications and digital technologies.

b) CSC exchanged an agreement with Bharat Net for operations and maintenance of optical fibre network. On the occasion of CSC Diwas inaugurated the CSC Women VLE Conference.

c) An MoU was signed between DoT & ICRIER for preparation of Broadband Readiness Index for States/UTs in august presence of Hon'ble MOSC.

d) Hon'ble Minister of Communications met CEOs of the Telecom Service Providers.

e) Secretary-DoT chaired the Inauguration Ceremony of 4-day ITU-DoT Training Programme on "Human and Technical Capacity Challenges through Digital Skills" at C-DoT Campus, New Delhi

f) A warm farewell was given by DoT to Ms. Aruna Sundararajan Secretary-DoT on her superannuation at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi on 31.07.2019. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao Minister of State for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Human Resource Development, Shri Anshu Prakash, Additional Secretary(DoT) and Senior officers of DoT were present during the occasion.

g) Shri Anshu Prakash, IAS has taken over as Secretary (Telecom) and Chairman, Digital Communications Commission on 1st August,2019 in Department of Telecommunications.

h) An India Africa ICT Expo inaugurated by Dr. Edouard Ngirente, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Rwanda. The Expo was held in Kigali, Rwanda during 5-6 August, 2019. Delegation of DoT_India and 40 companies from India participated in this event

i) Indian delegation in the 5th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil from 12-14 August 2019.

j) Hon'ble MOC launched "Maritime Telecommunication services" and a pilot project "Central Equipment Identity Register" in Mumbai in August. Maritime Telecommunication services will provide voice and data services on ships within Indian territorial waters through Indian gateways.

k) Pilot project called Central Equipment Identity Register system has been launched in Maharashtra for blocking and tracing of lost/stolen mobile phones.

IV. **Telecommunication Engineering Centre**

1. **Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE)**

Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) portal was opened on 5th July'19 and acceptance of applications for 13 Nos. of telecom equipment covered under Phase-I commenced on 9th July'19. Certification for these telecom equipments was made mandatory w.e.f. 1st Oct'19. The smooth implementation of Phase-I of MTCTE has been appreciated by various stakeholders and their representative organizations viz. COAI/MAIT, ITI.

Following notifications/office memorandum for the purpose of MTCTE were issued:

i. Mechanism for grant of exemption from submission of test reports against few parameters has been finalized and the office memorandum in this regard issued.

ii. Notification for relaxation of Customer Premises Equipment with RF interface from testing against IEC:60215 standards issued.

iii. Notification for consideration of date of dispatch of telecom equipment from foreign port as date of import for the purpose of MTCTE issued.

First batch of MTCTE certificates were presented by Ms. Aruna Sundarajan, the then Secretary (Telecom) to first two applicants: M/s Matrix Comsec Pvt. Ltd. & M/s Panasonic India Pvt. Ltd. on 30th July'2019. Fiftieth CAB (Conformity Assessment Bodies) certificate of Lab designation was also presented by Ms. Aruna Sundarajan, the then Secretary (Telecom) to M/s ERTL, New Delhi on 30th July'2019.

2.   IoT Experience Center

IoT Experience Center having 17 IoT use cases working in real time, was inaugurated by Mr. A K Sanghi, Advisor TEC on 27th Sept 2019. These use cases have been provided by STMicroelectronics, TATA Communications Ltd. (TCL), SenRa, Sensorise Digital Services Pvt. Ltd. and Trusted Objects.

3.   Workshop on "5G Technology and Applications" organized by RTEC Mumbai

A one-day workshop on "5G Technology and Applications" was organized by RTEC Mumbai on 19.09.2019 from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM at Mumbai. About 115 officers and professionals from DoT, BSNL, MTNL, CABs and Industry participated in the event. A total of 8 distinguished speakers gave their presentations. It was an effort by RTEC, Mumbai to bring Research, Industry and Telecom Professionals at a common platform for dissemination of latest technical knowledge, research findings and field deployment issues

in mobile technology with a focus on 5G. All the participants and speakers were welcome by Shri Ashok Kumar Jha, DDG(WR). Shri Abhay Shankar Verma, DDG(MT), TEC and Shri Manoj Mishra, CGM, BSNL Maharashtra Circle Mumbai gave their opening remarks followed by addresses by speakers.

Prof. Vikram Gadre, Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Bombay delivered key address of "Introduction to 5G and Modulation Techniques for 5G". Shri Abhay Shanker Verma, DDG(MT), TEC presented on "5G Applications and Use Cases". Dr. Vinosh Babu James, Associate Director, Technical Standards, Qualcomm presented on the topic "Leading the World to 5G ". Shri B Sunil Kumar, PGM, BSNL presented on the topic "Migration to 5G: An Indian Perspective". Shri Prakash R, Technical Expert, CDoT presented on the topic "5G and Beyond: Overview,Trends and Standardization". Dr. S Ramakrishnan, Nokia Networks presented on the topic "5G Technology and Use Cases". Shri Rajiv Kamrani, Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd presented on "5G Market Update, Device Eco System, 5G Deployment & Spectrum, Use Cases ". Shri Kundana K Lal, VITTI Research Foundation delivered presentation on "Rise of Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Industry".

4. ISO 9001:2015 Certification granted to TEC

TEC has implemented Quality Management System (QMS) by framing 'Quality Manual', Quality System Procedure (QSP), documents related to Common Procedures and Divisional Manuals. After finalisation of documents, TEC conducted Internal Audit, Management Review Meeting and organised External Audit by NABCB accredited Certification Body. Upon successful implementation of the External Audit, TEC has been granted ISO 9001:2015 certification in August 2019.

5. **New Technology initiatives**

A committee comprising members from various units of DoT (DoT, TEC, LSAs etc) was constituted for standardization in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and the 1st meeting of the said committee was held in TEC on 03 Oct 2019. 5 Working Groups were created to steer the activities of the committee to bring out a detailed paper on standardization in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

6. **Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB)**

(a) Following 10 numbers of Domestic labs were designated during the reported quarter as CABs of TEC for different standard/specifications:

i. M/s SAMEER Kolkata Centre, Kolkata
ii. M/s Atharva Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. (Unit-2), NOIDA
iii. M/s EMC Test Centre, Quality Assurance Division ,BEL, Bangalore
iv. M/s Electronics Regional Test Laboratory(North), New Delhi
v. M/s Hi Physix Laboratory India Pvt Ltd. Pune
vi. M/s UL India Private Limited, Bangalore
vii. M/s Conformity Testing Labs Private Limited,Unit-2, New Delhi
viii. M/s International Centre for Automotive Technology, Centre-II, Manesar, Gurgaon
ix. M/s TUV India Private Limited, Pune
x. M/s TUV Rheinland (India) Pvt.Ltd., 108, Bengaluru

In view of above, the cumulative number of test labs designated as CAB has reached to 54 Nos.

(b) Enhancement of Scope of CABs of TEC:
The Scope for following 2 CABs of TEC was enhanced for different standard/specifications:
i. M/s AB MSAI Research Labs Private Limited, New Delhi
ii. M/s SPECTRO Analytical Labs Limited, Greater Noida

7. **NDCP-2018 -Implementation and Review Mechanism**

i. After reviewing industry practices with respect to traffic prioritization to provide 5G enabled applications and services, the report has been formulated as per NDCP 2018 and sent to Dir (Policy), DoT HQ vide letter no TEC/MT/NDCP-314/2018 dated 16 Aug 2019.
ii. Facilitation and supporting deployment of innovative solution in identified smart cities-status report was sent to Dir (Policy), DoT, vide letter no 13-NDCP/2018-FN/TEC dated 11 August 2019.

iii. Creating a framework for testing and certification of new products and services- status report was sent to Dir (Policy), DoT, vide letter no 13-NDCP/2018-FN/TEC dated 11 August 2019.

iv. For remaining items, working areas have been allotted to various divisions of TEC for study and deliberations.

8. Inputs provided to DoT on

i. "Open APIs" under NDCP-2018 provision given to NT wing, DoT.

ii. Inputs provided to IR Wing, DoT on BRICS BIFN Term of Reference (ToR) for 5th BRICs communication ministers meeting held in Brazil from 12-14 August 2019,

9. Other Miscellaneous Activities

i. One-day training programme on "IoT Standardization: oneM2M and OCF" was arranged as a capacity building measures for the members of Consultative committee formed for adoption of oneM2M Rel 2 standards transposed by TSDSI, having speakers from India and abroad, with remote participation also, TEC New Delhi, 5th August 2019.

ii. Two days training programme on IoT & 5G was designed and conducted by TEC with industry experts for ITI executives, Rae Bareli during 1-2 July 2019.

iii. TEC speakers made presentations in CDoT one M2M event on 26-08-2019 and one M2M industry day event at Hyderabad on 25-09-2019

iv. A delegation headed by Advisor, TEC visited Samsung and Nasscomm IoT CoE at Gurgaon on 4th July 2019. Delegation was having members from TEC and C-DOT.

V. **Bharat Net**

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The Union Cabinet accorded its approval on 25.10.2011 for the creation of a National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) to connect 2,50,0000 (approx.) through Optical Fiber Cable (OFC)" by utilizing Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).

A modified strategy to implement BharatNet has been approved by Cabinet on 19.07.2017, which provides an optimal mix of media to connect GPs. implementation under State-led Model, Private Sector, CPSU Model, laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs.

As part of BharatNet project, the last mile connectivity, through VVi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, to access broadband/ internet is being provided at all the GPs in the country. Accordingly, work of provisioning of 2 VVi-Fi Access Points (APs) for about 1.25 lakh GPs of

Phase-I is being carried out through Rajasthan Government (in 10,000 GPs of Rajasthan) and through CSC-SPV in the rest of India.

Wi-Fi have been installed in 44,046 GPs. out of which Service are being provided 15,500 GPs.

As on 30.09.2019, a total of 1, 37.457 GPs have been connected by laying 3,68,773 km OFC. A total of 1.25.151 GPs have been made Service Ready.

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