

The government has begun work on the new telecom policy and will seek views of the public before finalising it.

The process of seeking public opinion through an open consultation process will begin shortly. This will be in addition to consultations from industry, academia and experts from India and overseas.

According to the telecom minister, this is the first ever instance where public consultation will be carried out in the Indian telecom sector for formulating the policy. In all the earlier telecom policies in India, views were sought from carriers, telecom service provider associations, tower companies and some representation from civil society.

Currently, a team of 50 people have been constituted to work on designing the policy. The work on the new policy has started after five years of the previous National Telecom Policy (NTP) released in 2012. Under NTP 2012, the government undertook several reforms, including delinking license from spectrum, specifying spectrum trading and sharing norms, full mobile number portability and making large quantities of spectrum available for purchase through auctions.

The new policy is expected to create a roadmap for the growth of the sector and setting the base for adoption of nextgen technologies.

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