

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4921
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
FUNDS FOR TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide funds to private telecom operators to create telecom infrastructure in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) whether any target has been fixed for those private telecom operators to provide telephone facilities in rural areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three Service Providers for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless on Local Loop (WLL). The infrastructure in form of towers and provision of mobile services shall be created by both Private and Public Sector Companies. As per the Representative Rates arrived as on outcome of the bidding process, total subsidy outgo from USO Fund under this scheme would be about Rs. 587.88 Crore over a period of 5 years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The agreements effective from 01.06.2007 have been signed by USOF with the successful infrastructure Providers and Service Providers for these 7871 towers in May, 2007. Mobile Svices from some of these towers have already been started and services from the remaining towers are likely to be available in a phased manner by October, 2008.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.