

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4970
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has not taken any action against the companies which had agreed to provide telephone connections in villages but failed to do so;
- (b) if so, total number of such companies which did not fulfill the conditions of the said agreement;and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) There has been some delay in the provision of telecom services under the various Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund schemes on account of various reasons like remoteness of locations, law and order problems, non-availability/irregular availability of electricity connections etc. Taking into consideration these reasons, extensions in the roll out period for achieving the targets under agreements between USOF and Universal Service Providers have been given to the Service Providers in some of the schemes for fulfillment of their roll out obligations.

(b) & (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.