

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4992
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
PROVISION OF TELECOM SERVICES
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to give special emphasis for providing Telecom services in North-Eastern Regions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has launched various schemes for provision of telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region(NER). Out of 40,377 inhabited villages in NER, 34,396 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility as on 31/03/2010 and the remaining VPTs will be provided by February, 2011. Schemes for providing subsidy support for Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) and for setting up and managing 608 infrastructure sites(towers) in NER for provision of mobile services in specified rural and remote areas are such other schemes. Telecom services under these schemes are being commissioned in a phased manner.

In addition to the above, under the special component plan, BSNL makes provision for development of telecom facilities in North Eastern Region (NER). During the 11th Five Year Plan, BSNL has made an allocation of Rs.2,656.79 crore for development telecom infrastructure in NER. BSNL also fixes Telecom Circle-wise annual targets for development of telecom network including the North Eastern Region circles.