

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3057  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010  
MOBILE TOWERS ON RENT  
Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai

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

- (a) whether the mobile towers have been given to private operators or public sector companies on rent or on lease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) to (c) Madam, as per licensing conditions, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers and Unified Access Service (UAS) Providers are permitted to install their mobile towers for providing the mobile telephone services. They are also permitted to share their towers with other CMTS/UAS providers with mutual agreement. Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) are permitted to establish and maintain the assets, that is, Dark Fibres, Right of Way, Duct Space and Tower for the purpose to grant on lease/rent/sale basis to the licensees of Telecom Services licensed under Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Further, the mobile towers set up under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are owned by IP-I providers, who are setting up and managing the tower. These towers created under the USOF scheme are shared by three telecom service providers for provision of mobile services and IP-I provider is not permitted to charge any rent from these telecom service providers till the validity period of five years of the scheme.