

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4192

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009

INSTALLATION OF TELECOM NETWORK

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the expansion of cellular phone network in rural areas obtaining financial assistance form Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund;
- (b) if so, the number of towers targets to be set up under this scheme;
- (c) whether the said target has been achieved;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of towers set up during the current year; and
- (e) the amount proposed to be spent by the private sector in the said scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) To expand mobile services in uncovered rural and remote areas, a scheme was launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in 2007 for setting up 7440 number of towers, which were to be commissioned by May, 2009. As on 30 June, 2009, a total of 5979 towers representing more than 80% of the total towers have been set up. The remaining towers are likely to be completed by September, 2009. The main reasons for the delay in setting up of these towers consist of non-connectivity by roads/public transport, law and order problems, areas falling in forest/hilly terrains etc. A total of 1223 towers were installed during the period from 1 April, 2009 to 30 June, 2009.

About 10128 towers are also proposed to be installed under the second phase of the shared mobile infrastructure scheme under USOF, which is likely to be launched shortly.

(e) Government is providing subsidy support to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other service providers for setting up of towers for provision of mobile services on the rates arrived through a bidding process. The remaining expenditure on installation of these towers is met by the service providers themselves.