

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009  
BROADBAND WIRELESS ACCESS SERVICES  
Patasani Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services being providing by Department of Telecom (DoT) in rural and backward areas are viable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the manner in which they are proposed to be made viable and affordable; and
- (d) the quantum of spectrum for BWA services likely to be made available in the country during the next three years?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Sir. The Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) is working on a scheme called 'Wireless Broadband connectivity in rural & remote areas'. To start with approximately 2 Lakh villages would be broadband enabled and rest of the villages will be covered in a phased manner. In this scheme financial assistance by way of subsidy will be given to Telecom Service Providers. In addition, the existing broadband infrastructure in rural and remote areas will be utilised. The scheme is envisaged to be rolled out across India in phased manner during the current Five Year Plan (2007-2012).

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), one of the Telecom Service Providers is currently providing connectivity for Rural Common Service Centre. The tariff proposed in the rural areas by BSNL is Rs. 140/- per month in the lowest plan.

(d) Guidelines have been issued for auction of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum. As per the guidelines, 4 blocks each of 20MHz spectrum in 2.3GHz/2.5GHz are available for auction.