

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:373  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011  
PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS  
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) whether many private telecom operators have failed to fulfil the commitment in regard to providing basic/ mobile telephone connections in the country particularly in the backward and tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against such operators;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make the provisions of telecommunication contracts more stringent;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) Madam, stipulations regarding obligatory coverage by private telecom operators are contained in the Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence wherein there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas. Coverage of unviable areas including backward and tribal areas is supplemented by schemes funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) wherever required. Actions against defaulting telecom operators who fail to fulfill rollout obligations as per the licence conditions or the contractual commitments with the USOF is taken as and when the specific violations come to or are brought to the notice of the appropriate authority in individual cases.

(c) & (d) The provisions of the UAS Licence and the provisions of the USOF contracts are reviewed from time to time based on the feedback or any shortcomings and deficiencies that come to notice.