

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4521
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011
TELECOM FACILITIES IN BORDER AREAS
Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) whether there is inadequate telephone connectivity in the areas near international borders particularly in Gujarat and Punjab on Pakistan border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance telecom connectivity to these areas?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Prior to July 2008, No service zone of 500 Meters width along the International border within Indian territory for wireless/mobile service was there. Further, deployment of Cell site(s)/Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)/ Radio transmitters in the buffer zone of 10 Km width in certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir was also barred. Vide Department of Telecom(DoT) letter dated 11.07.2008 deployment of Cell site(s)/Base Tranceiver Stations (BTSs)/Radio transmitters in the buffer zone of 10 Km width have been permitted and now the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have to ensure that their radio signal(s) fade out or become unusable within a reasonable distance across such borders.

There is no specific complaint received regarding inadequacy of telecom services. The areas near International Borders including Pakistan, China, Myanmar and Bhutan Borders are covered by one or other TSPs. However, in some rural/remote areas the provisioning of telecom services is at lower side due to difficult terrain, poor roads and power supply.

(c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) wing of DoT implements various schemes with financial support for providing access of telecom services to the people in the rural and remote areas including border areas at affordable and reasonable prices.