

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2394

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

EXPANSION OF TELECOM SERVICES

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

- (a) the action plan formulated by the Government for expansion of telecom services in rural, backward, tribal and naxal affected areas in the country;
- (b) the targets fixed and achieved in providing the services during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent in this regard during the said period, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) the action plan prepared and targets fixed by the Government under Twelfth Five Year Plan for expansion of telecom services with special emphasis on affordable and quality services in the country, particularly in rural areas and the allocation made/likely to be made therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The details of various schemes being implemented by the Government for expansion of telecom services in rural & remote areas of the country including backward, tribal and naxal affected areas with financial support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund, are given in Annexure-I.

(b): A statement indicating the overall targets fixed and achievements made as on 31.01.2012 is given below;

Target at the end of	Achieved as on 31st
Eleventh Five Year Plan	January, 2012

Total Subscribers Numbers	600 million	936.12 million
Rural Subscribers Numbers	200 million	320.34 million
Rural Tele-density	25%	38.08%

A statement indicating the Service area-wise achievement as on 31.01.2012 is given in Annexure-II & III.

(c): the details of fund allocated and spent by USOF are given in Annexure-IV.

(d): Under the revised Draft National Telecom Policy 2012, it is proposed to increase rural tele-density from current level of around 37 to 70 by 2017.

The details of recently approved and planned schemes are as follows:

(i) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). There is plan to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of PSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary, to extend broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. Size of the incremental network is Approx. 0.5 Million ICm. This is called National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). Thus prevailing connectivity gap between GPs and Blocks will be filled. Non-discriminatory access to the network will be provided to all the telecom service providers. The project will be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and initial estimated cost of project is Rs.20,000 Crore. The project will be executed in 2 years by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited, which will be fully owned by Central Government.

(ii) USOF is working on a scheme to extend financial support for provisioning of mobile communication services in 2199 locations affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) as requested by Ministry of Home affairs. The scheme is to be implemented by BSNL on nomination basis during the 12th Five Year Plan.