

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6458  
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012  
TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN COASTAL AREAS  
Abdulrahman Shri ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the coastal and border areas have inadequate telecom facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the coastal and the border areas of our country have not yet been provided with mobile telephone connectivity by the telecom PSUs and the private-telecom operators;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to facilitate these areas with mobile network?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Madam, 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 Transceiver 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. After the instructions dated 11.7.08, TSPs have started putting up BTSs within 10 Kms of border also and now telecom infrastructure is much better in border areas than it used to be before the issue of these instructions.

(c) to (e) All the districts in coastal and border areas 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. 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/coastal areas at affordable and reasonable prices.