

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1275  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012  
AUGMENTATION OF CELL TOWERS  
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether after introduction of 3G and BWA Service, the requirement for mobile towers has increased or is likely to increase to cater to the needs of the increasing mobile subscribers;
- (b) if so, the estimated requirement of mobile towers by 2014;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of estimated investment to power the entire telecom towers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the growing demand of mobile towers and arrange required investment for the purpose?

**Answer**

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

(a) Madam, the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Department of Telecommunication issues clearances for installation of antennae/towers for mobile as well fixed telecommunication services. In the case of mobile telecommunication services i.e. 2G, 3G and BWA-including Internet services, the department has issued following number of antennae clearances, year-wise.

Sl.No.	Year	Number of cleared antennas
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01	2008	266048
02	2009	326289
03	2010	250920
04	2011	180236
05	2012	24152

(till  
date)

From the above, it is seen that there has been a declining trend in the number of antennae/towers installed for the mobile services during the past two years and thus introduction of 3G and BWA services has so far not caused any rise in number of towers/antenna during preceding years.

(b) Madam, the most of the towers are being added by the respective telecom service providers themselves as per their technical and business requirements. It may so happen that a single tower may be shared by multiple services i.e. 2G, 3G and BWA etc. and by multiple service providers. In view of this, exact estimation of requirement of towers could no be assessed so far.

However, the Government has set up a fund called USO (Universal Service Obligation) Fund to provide financial assistance for encouraging the Infrastructure Provider Companies to set up towers in remote/rural areas of the country. Till 31st March' 2011, a total of 7283 towers out of a total sanctioned number of 7354 towers were installed and commissioned.

In the second phase, a total of 10,000 more towers have been planned by USO Fund.

(c) to (e) Madam, the expenses to provide power for the operation of telecom towers/equipment is born by the telecom service providers themselves; therefore, the Government of India is not required to separately invest for providing power to these towers.

As stated above, the Government has set up a fund called USO (Universal Service Obligation) Fund to provide financial assistance for encouraging the Infrastructure Provider Companies to set up towers in remote/rural areas of various parts of the country. Till 31st March, 2011, a total of 7283 towers out of a total sanctioned number of 735 towers were installed and commissioned. A total of Rs. 147.2135673 crores were spent from the year 2008-09 to 2010-2011 under USO Fund.

In the second phase, a total of 10,000 more towers have been planned by USO Fund.