

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

FUNDS FOR EXTENSION OF TELECOM SERVICES

Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has allocated the funds for improving and extending telecom services in the country including Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the telecom circles have achieved the target fixed in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of new areas covered/proposed to be covered by the telecom network in the country during the current year?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b) Sir, Government has allocated funds under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) for providing access to telecom services in Rural and remote areas in the country including Himachal Pradesh. Service area wise utilization of USO Funds during last 3 years and the current year upto 31.10.09 is given at Annexure-I.

BSNL is also providing funds for the purpose to its field units including Himachal Pradesh from its own resources.

The details of funds utilized during the last 3 years by the field units of BSNL including Himachal Pradesh are furnished in Annexure-II. Total allocation of funds to the field units for the current financial year 2009-10 is to the tune of Rs. 14105 crores.

(c) & (d) The details of targets fixed from telephone connections and achievement made during the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure-III.

(e) Under the first phase of the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USO Fund, it is planned to cover villages or clusters of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage.

During the current year BSNL plans to cover all rural exchanges through wire line technology with broadband. BSNL also plans to cover 100% district HQs and block HQs with broadband. Regarding mobile connectivity BSNL plans to cover the villages having population of more than 1000 progressively in the next 3 years. Also BSNL has launched 3G services in 240 cities till October 2009 as a part of first phase.

MTNL has already covered its entire area of operation (wireline & wireless) in Delhi & Mumbai.