

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2054
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
MOBILE NETWORK IN BORDER AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile spill over signal for neighbouring country particularly on China Border near Nathula has been reported as a result the mobile subscribers including army personnel have to pay international roaming charges for their calls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to augment mobile network in border areas and install more signal towers for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which mobile towers are likely to be installed in the bordering areas including Nathula?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Cases have been reported wherein spillage of mobile signals from neighboring countries has been observed. Accordingly it has been decided to take up these issues at International level. However, complaints regarding payment of International roaming charges on China Border near Nathula by mobile subscribers including army personnel have not been reported to this Ministry.

(c) & (d) 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. The areas near International Borders including China 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. Further, since now there are no restrictions on installing the towers within 10 Km of border, Telecom Service Providers are free to install the BTSs in border areas as per their techno commercial consideration. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) also implements various schemes with financial support for providing access of telecom services in the rural and remote areas including border areas. BSNL also plans to install a BTS near Nathula.