

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6845

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

TELECOM FACILITY IN NAXAL AFFECTED AREAS

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in the naxal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in various States to ascertain the requirement of telecommunication facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government proposes to conduct such survey;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the targets fixed and achieved in providing telecom facilities and installation of mobile towers in such areas during the 11th Five Year Plan along with the funds allocated for the same, State-wise including Odisha;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government under the 12th Five Year Plan for upgradation and strengthening of the said facilities; and
- (f) the number of towers set up so far and proposed to be set up in such areas in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SMT.) KILLI KRUPARANI)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has identified and conveyed 2199 locations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for installation of mobile towers in 9 states which are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and do not currently have any coverage by any service provider.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already installed Mobile Towers at 363 out of these 2199 locations. State-wise detail of these locations is as follows:

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of locations identified by MHA	No. of towers already commissioned by BSNL
1	Andhra Pradesh	227	3
2	Bihar	184	0
3	Chhattisgarh	497	351
4	Jharkhand	782	0
5	Madhya Pradesh	22	6
6	Maharashtra	60	3
7	Odisha	253	0
8	Uttar Pradesh	78	0
9	West Bengal	96	0
	TOTAL	2199	363

The scheme of installation of mobile towers is funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(d) to (f) USOF launched a scheme called the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme (SMIS) in May 2007 to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7353 infrastructure sites/towers in 500 districts including LWE affected districts spread over 27 States for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there was no existing fixed, wireless or mobile coverage. Villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more having no mobile coverage, were taken into consideration for installation of towers under the scheme. 673 mobile towers were targeted in the 11th Five Year Plan under the Scheme in LWE affected districts and all these towers have been installed. Details of these towers are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of towers under shared mobile infrastructure scheme of USOF Targeted	No. of towers commissioned
1	Andhra Pradesh	27	27
2	Bihar	102	102

3	Chhattisgarh	240	240
4	Jharkhand	162	162
5	Madhya Pradesh	12	12
6	Maharashtra	34	34
7	Odisha	36	36
8	Uttar Pradesh	25	25
9	West Bengal	35	35
	TOTAL	673	673

The details of subsidy disbursed by USOF under shared mobile infrastructure scheme upto 28.2.2013 is as follows:

S. No.	Name of the State	Subsidy disbursed by USOF under shared mobile infrastructure scheme upto 28.2.2013 (in Rs. crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	42.33
2	Bihar	11.21
3	Chhattisgarh	30.57
4	Jharkhand	08.34
5	Madhya Pradesh	17.76
6	Maharashtra	30.01
7	Odisha	12.35
8	Uttar Pradesh	35.28
9	West Bengal	04.12
	Total	191.97

In the 12th Plan period, all villages which presently do not have mobile coverage will be provided with connectivity under a scheme funded by USOF.