

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:53
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013
TELECOM FACILITIES IN NAXAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of telecom facilities in the naxal and left wing extremist affected areas in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to install mobile towers in such areas in various States and if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified for the purpose so far, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (d) whether the agencies for installation of mobile towers have been finalised by the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which mobile towers are likely to be installed in all such locations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 53 FOR 7TH AUGUST, 2013 REGARDING "TELECOM FACILITIES IN NAXAL AREAS"

(a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) launched a scheme to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7,353 infrastructure sites/towers in 500 districts spread over 27 states, including 673 towers in naxal affected districts, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there was no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The agreements effective from 01.06.2007 were signed with the successful bidders in May 2007, which are valid till November, 2013.

As on 30.06.2013, 7,317 towers i.e. about 99.51% have been set up under the scheme. All the targeted towers under the scheme in naxal affected districts have already been installed. Details of towers installed in naxal affected districts is given in Annexure-I.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has identified and conveyed 2199 locations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) 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 locations. Details of these locations are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of locations identified by MHA	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

Government has approved the project proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 3046.12 Crore to be implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on nomination basis in its meeting held on 04.06.2013. USOF would fund the capital and operational expenditure net of revenue for five years. In the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 3000 crore has been allocated for all USOF projects including the project for connectivity in LWE affected areas.

Installation of mobile towers and rollout of mobile services in these areas is targeted to be completed in 12 months' period after signing of the agreement between USOF and BSNL. After implementation of the project, mobile services shall be available to general public as well as security personnel at these locations.