

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2243

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR TELECOM TOWERS

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

- (a) whether the Department of Telecom has initiated a project on running telecom towers on renewable energy, starting with non-grid areas and made mandatory use of renewable energy particularly solar energy for running all telecom towers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken so far in this regard particularly by BSNL and the number of towers so far made functional on renewable/hybrid energy, State and operator-wise;
- (d) whether the Government seeks soft loans for green initiative in telecom sector from Asian Development Bank (ADB); and
- (e) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, DoT undertook 20 Pilot projects in USOF Ph-I sites using Green Energy [Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) & SPV-wind hybrid] to examine the Technical feasibility and financial viability with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

On the basis of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations dated 12.04.2011 "An approach towards Green Telecom", DOT issued directions for greening of the telecom sector in January 2012.

The Government issued directions for implementation of Green Energy Technologies in Telecom Sector; At least 50% of all rural towers and 20% of the urban towers are to be powered by hybrid power (Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid power) by 2015; while 75% of rural towers and 33% of urban towers are to be powered by hybrid power by 2020.

These directions were for Renewable Energy Technologies, not particularly for solar energy. The targets were specified on overall basis, without differentiating on grid/ non-grid sites.

(c) The no. of towers made functional on Renewable/hybrid energy State wise by BSNL is enclosed as per Annexure 'A'. Around 2517 RET projects have been executed by other Telecom operators and the State wise details is not available.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Nil in view of (d) above.