

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
TELECOM NETWORK IN NAXAL AREAS
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the telecom operators to rollout their network in the left wing extremism affected areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the work of installation of mobile towers in such affected areas is being excessively delayed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND 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. 379 FOR 19TH FEBRUARY, 2014 REGARDING "TELECOM NETWORK IN NAXAL AREAS"

(a) to (e) Government has approved a proposal on 04.06.2013 to install mobile towers at 2199 locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 9 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal), which are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

Work has been awarded to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) would fund the CAPEX and OPEX net of revenue for five years. Estimated project cost is Rs. 3046.12 Crore. Installation and rollout in these areas is targeted to be completed in 12 months. Affordable mobile communication services will be available to the general public as well as security personnel in the identified areas. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has submitted that they have already installed Mobile Towers at 363 locations. State-wise details of these locations are given below:

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of locations identified by MHA	Towers already installed by BSNL
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1	Andhra Pradesh	227	3
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2	Bihar	184	0
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3	Chhattisgarh	497	351
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4	Jharkhand	782	0
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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

BSNL had floated the tender on 14.08.2013. The tender was opened on 25.10.2013. BSNL has submitted tender evaluation report dated 20.01.2014 and the same is under examination by Department of Telecommunication (DoT).