

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014
COMMUNICATION SERVICES
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the telecommunication services were not functional for a long period in the regions affected by cyclone HUDHUD;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a contingency mechanism in case of failure of communication services during such natural calamities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)&(b) The telecommunication services were impacted due to damage of telecommunication equipment such as Antenna Towers, optical fibre cable network due to high velocity winds and tides as result of Cyclone HUDHUD. The power failure during this period also affected the telecommunication services.

(c)&(d) Drawing lessons from natural calamities/disasters Government has constituted a Committee to review the functioning of communication network during disasters and formulate a fresh strategy in this regard. The Committee has submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Department.

(e) Apart from above, Government has also taken following steps :

(i) The helpline number 1949 was opened for convenience of public.

(ii) Intra-circle roaming arrangements among telecom operators have been permitted, so that the network and infrastructure of one operator can be utilized by the subscribers of other operators.

(iii) Mobile telecom towers were deployed at important locations.

(iv) Satellite phones were provided to District Administration.