

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2816
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014
EXPANSION OF TELECOM NETWORK IN NAXAL HIT AREAS
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been assigned the work for expansion of telecom networks in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)/Naxalites area and allocations have been made for the purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total amount sanctioned and the works undertaken in these areas so far, State-wise;
- (c) whether BSNL is lagging behind in achieving the targets set in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has dismissed BSNL's demand for additional compensation to encourage its staff to work in hostile region and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the originally sanctioned funds would be enough to meet BSNL's managerial costs in planning/designing the LWE mobile networks as well as in keeping a profit element; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) On 20.08.2014, the Government approved a project to provide Mobile services in 2199 locations [1836 new sites & 363 sites already installed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)] in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. The estimated project implementation cost is Rs. 3567.58 crore, to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). BSNL has been nominated to execute the project. The State-wise details of mobile towers are as below:

S. No.	State	No. of Mobile Already Installed towers by BSNL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41 1
2.	Bihar	184 0
3.	Chhattisgarh	497 351
4.	Jharkhand	782 0
5.	Maharashtra	60 3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22 6
7.	Odisha	253 0
8.	Telangana	186 2
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78 0
10.	West Bengal	96 0
	Total	2,199 363

(c) An agreement between USOF and BSNL was signed on 30.09.2014. Installation of towers and roll out of the network in these areas is targeted to be completed in 12 months from the date of signing of the agreement between BSNL and USOF. BSNL has awarded the work to successful bidders for execution of the project. The project is likely to be executed within the targeted timelines.

(d) BSNL's request for 16.5% Administrative Charges over and above the approved implementation cost has not been accepted. USOF will fund Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operating Expenditure (OPEX) net of revenue for five years and also provide 10% centage on CAPEX and OPEX to BSNL. Further, on 20.08.2014, the Government decided that the ownership of the assets created under this project will vest in BSNL.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) USOF will fund CAPEX and OPEX net of revenue for 5 years and provide 10% centage to BSNL. BSNL has awarded the work to successful bidders on a turn-key basis for installation, commissioning and maintenance of the infrastructure created under the project, during the agreement period.