

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:31
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014
INTERNET CONNECTIONS IN RURAL AREAS
Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to achieve total internet connectivity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details worked out for rural areas, State-wise especially in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the funds allocated and spent for this purpose, State-wise especially in Maharashtra?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, Government is planning to cover all the villages which are not covered through 2G mobile services in the country in phased manner. The proposed mobile tower/Base Transceiver Station (BTS) for 2G mobile services will be General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) / Enhanced GPRS (EDGE) enabled which will provide internet service. Details of the un-covered villages including Maharashtra states-wise/UT-wise are given at Annexure-I.

(c) Government has approved the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan on 10.09.2014 for North East Region at an estimated project cost of Rs. 5336.18 Crores.

Further as on 31.10.2014, an amount of Rs. 369.94 Crore has been disbursed under a Nine year Universal Service Obligatory Fund (USOF) agreement signed with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 20th January, 2009. Controller of Communication Accounts(CCA)- wise details in respect of subsidy disbursed by USOF under the scheme including Maharashtra is enclosed at Annexure-II.