

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2315  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015  
OBLIGATION OF PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS  
Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar

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

- (a) the details of commitment made by private telecom operators for providing telephone connection in rural areas and the extent of fulfilment of the same, company-wise;
- (b) the detailed guidelines issued by the Government, if any, in the matter;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make provisions and licensing norms more stringent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against each defaulting Telecom Service Provider?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide services as per rollout obligations contained in their respective license agreement/ Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for auction of spectrum.

As per rollout obligation in Unified Access Service License (UASL) for 2G Services, the TSPs have to cover 10/50 percent of District Headquarters (DHQ)/Towns within 1st /3rd year respectively in the License Service Area (LSA). There is no specific obligation in the UASLs issued prior to 2010 to provide telephone connections in the rural areas.

As per rollout obligation in the NIA of year 2010 for the auction of 3G and BWA(Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum, in the case of 3G spectrum, 50% of the DHQs/Towns in the LSA are to be covered out of which 15% should be rural Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) whereas in the case of BWA spectrum, 50% rural SDCAs in the LSA are to be covered by the licensees within 5 years, i.e., by the end of third quarter of 2015.

The subsequent NIAs of years 2012, 2013 and 2014 for auction of 800/900/1800MHz spectrum also provide for coverage of 10/20/30 percent of Block Headquarters (BHQs) in the LSA by the end of 3rd /4th /5th year respectively in addition to the coverage of DHQs/Towns as stipulated in the UAS Licence.

(c)& (d) At present there is no proposal to make the provisions and licensing norms more stringent.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.