

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2394

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

QUALITY TELECOM SERVICES

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched special drive to provide world class telecommunication services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared by the Government in this regard including the expenditure to be incurred thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to involve Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other private institutions/companies in this initiative; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Government has prepared an action plan for stimulating overall growth in the telecom sector in the country, which inter alia includes the provision of broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats, provision of mobile services in uncovered and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

Digital India programme envisions transformation of India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Department of Telecommunications has been entrusted with key tasks of building broadband highway and providing mobile connectivity in all unconnected villages across the country. National Optical Fibre Network project envisages provision of broadband connectivity to 2,50,000 village Panchayats. Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages is to be provided in a phased manner over five years. Providing mobile coverage to the uncovered villages in the North Eastern Region (NER) has been taken up initially as part of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for NER. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and Border States (Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat) is targeted in the current financial year.

The estimated expenditure for implementation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is approximately Rs. 20,000 Crore and for providing mobile connectivity in LWE areas and North-Eastern areas is Rs. 3567.58 Crore and Rs. 5336.18 Crore respectively.

(c)&(d) No, Madam. However, Government seeks expert advice as and when required, including from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and academic institutions.