

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4740
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
GREEN TELECOM
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of implementation of TRAI recommendation for green telecom;
- (b) the details of mobile towers powered by Renewable Energy Technology so far, operator and State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is planning to provide financial support to telecom operators for meeting their green energy targets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the initiatives being taken to meet the target of shifting 50 per cent of all cell towers in rural areas and 20 per cent in urban areas to hybrid power by 2015 and 75 per cent and 33 per cent of cell towers in rural and urban zones, respectively, by 2010?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) made recommendation on 12.04.2011 regarding "An approach towards Green Telecom". On the basis of TRAI recommendations, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued directions in the January, 2012 regarding Implementation of Green Technologies in Telecom Sector. The directives, inter-alia, spelt out that "at least 50% of all rural towers and 20% of the urban towers are to be powered by hybrid power (Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid Power) by 2015, while 75% of rural towers and 33% of urban towers are to be powered by hybrid tower by 2020."

Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Committee constituted to, inter-alia, develop a road map and comprehensive programme for facilitating increased use of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for powering Telecom networks submitted its report on 01.08.2014. As per the RET Committee report, about 4000 telecom towers in the country are using renewable energy technologies. DoT does not maintain the operator-wise and state-wise details of these installations.

(c) to (e) At present there is no scheme for providing financial support to the telecom operators for meeting the Green Energy targets.

In order to examine the technical feasibility and financial viability of RET in Telecom Sector, DoT undertook 20 RET pilot projects in Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Ph-I sites through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with subsidy support from USOF and MNRE. Further, 400 RET projects were taken up by various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) with support from MNRE.

Further, RET Committee consisting of officers from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) & Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Industry representatives and others was also mandated to propose a comprehensive programme for deployment and analyzing the requirements & methodology for viability gap funding for RET deployment in telecom sector. Based on the recommendation of the RET Committee, a Technical Committee has been constituted for examination of the issues relating to implementation of RET and a financial committee has been constituted for consideration of incentivization of the use of RET in Telecom sector.