

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:237  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015  
MOBILE SERVICES IN BORDER AREAS  
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

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

- (a) whether mobile network of Indian telecommunication companies is very poor along the international border areas of the country particularly on India-Nepal border in U.P.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the residents of these areas are using the connection of mobile network of neighbouring countries;
- (d) if so, the number of such connections being used in the country, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate any work plan to strengthen mobile connectivity in border areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have reported , in general, that mobile network connectivity is adequate in areas along the International border areas of the country, including Indo-Nepal in U.P. and are meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- (c) & (d) The TSPs have reported that they are not aware that the residents of these areas are using the connection of mobile network of neighbouring countries.
- (e) & (f) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages (as per Census 2011) in the country that do not have mobile coverage including border areas in the country. The Government, through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), would provide mobile services in uncovered areas in a phased manner over a period of five years.