

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3584
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
MOBILE NETWORK ALONG BORDER AREA
Birla Shri Om

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

- (a) whether mobile network of Indian telecommunication companies is not available along the international border areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the mobile network of neighbouring countries is available in those areas;
- (c) if so, 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 and the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) As per terms and conditions of license about mandatory roll out obligation, 50% District Head Quarters are to be covered in such a way that at least 90% of the area bounded by the municipal limits get the required street level coverage. Accordingly, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have deployed their network including Base Trans-receive Stations (BTSs) along the international border area of the country as per their techno-commercial considerations and complying with the terms and conditions stipulated under respective license. Thus, there are some difficult areas where mobile signals are not available.
- (b) The instances of availability of mobile signals of foreign mobile networks inside Indian territories have been reported.
- (c) & (d) The information about uses of Mobile network of neighbouring countries by the residents of such areas have not been reported.
- (e) & (f) To strengthen mobile connectivity in border areas, the license condition stipulating that BTS should not be installed within 10 Kms of International border has been relaxed with the condition that Base Trans-receive Stations (BTSs) wherever located and established shall be as far away from such border as feasible and shall work in such a fashion that radio signal(s), emanating there from, fade out when nearing or about to cross international border and become unusable within a reasonable distance across such border. However, in the areas falling within 10 Kms of Line of Control(LOC), Line of Actual Control (LAC) and International Border between Akhnoor in J&K and Pathankot and other areas as may be notified from time to time by the Licensor, installation of Base Stations, Cell Sites or Radio transmitters or any concerned equipment and execution of the concerned project by the Licensee shall be taken up only after prior approval from local Army authorities about specific location of BTS with prior intimation to the Licensor.