

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6  
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014  
MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS  
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan for providing network and adequate coverage in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the rural areas of Jalore- Sirohi districts in the State of Rajasthan are still deprived of mobile connectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the mobile services along with basic telephone services remain out of order due to long standing technical problem in various towers of Jalore district including Ahore town;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Various schemes are being implemented with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecom services in rural & remote areas of the country.

(i) 7317 Mobile towers have been installed with the financial support of USOF under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme in villages or clusters of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created is capable of being shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. 16,254 BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) have been commissioned by Service Providers at these towers for provisioning of mobile services.

(ii) Government has approved a proposal to install mobile towers at 2199 locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, which are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been nominated to execute the work. USOF would fund the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operational Expenditure (OPEX) net of revenue for five years.

(iii) In its meeting held on 13.06.2014, the Telecom Commission approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom development Plan for North Eastern Region (NER) at an estimated project cost of Rs. 5336.18 Crores.

(iv) In its meeting held on 13.06.2014, the Telecom Commission accorded 'in-principle' approval for a scheme for providing mobile services in uncovered villages with the financial support of USOF and directed that Detailed Project Report (DPR) be prepared for the same.

(c) At present, 22 villages in Jalore District and 52 villages in Sirohi District do not have mobile coverage as per survey conducted by Department of Telecommunications. Currently 149 numbers of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are working and an additional 140 numbers BTSs are planned in Jalore and Sirohi districts by BSNL.

(d) BSNL has informed that no such issue has come to notice.

(e) & (f) Not applicable in view of (d) above.