

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1699
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Monitoring of Schemes
Ninama Shri Manshankar

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has put any mechanism in place for monitoring of various schemes launched by various departments of his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken and the outcome of the monitoring reports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)
(a) Yes, sir.

(b) The following are the schemes in Department of Telecommunications which are tabulated as under:-

<pre>

S. No. Name of the Schemes Details

1 National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) NICF is one such scheme for which:-

1. Project monitoring committee has been constituted for monitoring of progress for setting up of physical infrastructure for NICF, Ghitorni, New Delhi.

2. The various training under HRM are conducted as per the approved calendar of training/specific approval of Competent Authority

2 Wireless Planning & Co-ordination (WPC)/Wireless Monitoring Organization (WMO)

The various schemes are monitored at different levels in the Ministry by reviewing the progress reports of the schemes sent by the units

3 Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.(ITI)

Monitoring of the implementation of the revival plan is being done at various levels like ITI Plant level, ITI Corporate level, DoT level and Apex level. Functional Directors of ITI have been made as "Mentors" for different plants. At DoT level, review meetings are conducted by Member (S). Further to this, an Apex Committee has been formed as per the CCEA approval, with Secretary (T), DoT as the Chairman and Members drawn from Department of Expenditure and Department of Public Enterprises

4 Establishment of Satellite Gateway Assistance to BSNL This project is being monitored in DoT at various levels.

5 Network for Spectrum This project is being reviewed regularly at the level of Secretary (T) so as to remove the hurdles being faced by the implementing agency

6 Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) There are five schemes namely –

(1) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN):- This project is executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely BBNL. The estimated project cost is Rs.20,100 crore.

(2) Left Wing Extremism (LWE):- This project would be executed by BSNL for which agreement between BSNL and USOF has been signed. The estimated project cost is Rs.3567.58 crore.

3) Rural Wireline Broadband:- The objective of this scheme is to make the rural and remote areas broadband enabled by facilitating

the services providers in creating Broadband. The Rural Broadband connectivity will cover Institutional Users, such as Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centres, as well as Individual Users, located in the villages.

4) Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management in Assam, NE-I & NE-II:- The States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura have been taken up for OFC augmentation in this scheme. M/s RailTel Corporation of India Limited has been declared the successful bidder for NE-I & NE-II and BSNL for Assam.

5) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation A&N Islands:- It was decided in the Cabinet meeting for enhancement of Satellite Bandwidth from 260 Mbps to 1 Gbps. MoU signed with BSNL on 29.12.2015 and advance payment of Rs.8.098 crore released to BSNL in February 2016.

The following is the system of monitoring of various schemes launched by the USOF:-

(i) Appropriate conditions exist in USOF Agreements with the USPs to ensure proper quality of service and maintenance of various records.

(ii) Agreement for new installations also provide for imposition of liquidated damages in case of not meeting the roll-out obligations within the specified period.

(iii) Agreements provide for deductions in subsidy if the facilities are non-functional on account faults, or disconnected for non-payment.

(iv) In accordance with the stipulations in the Agreements, the service providers have to submit fault/downtime details etc. while submitting the claims in the proforma prescribed, besides self-certification and Affidavit to the effect that claims are being submitted in accordance with terms and conditions of Agreement.

(v) There are adequate safeguards in the Agreements to take care of eventualities such as excess/ underpayment of subsidy at any stage. Provisions also exist for recovery of interest in case subsidy payments are found to be made in excess of 10% of admissible amount.

(vi) Sample verification of the claims against installation of facilities as carried out by the offices of Controller of Communications Accounts (CCAs) which are the field units of Department of Telecom. Special checks and procedures are undertaken/ prescribed, wherever required.

(vii) The Agreement also provides that, 'The quarterly subsidy statements of each year shall be required to be audited by the auditors of the universal service provider appointed under section 224 of the companies act 1956 and final adjustment, if any, in respect of excess or shortage in the subsidy disbursed shall be made in the following year based on the quarterly statement duly certified by the auditors of the universal service provider. (As mentioned in the concerned Agreement). Thus in addition to adjustment made by the CCA offices, the Agreement provides for adjustment of any excess/short payment detected by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.

(viii) Regular monitoring and review of the project is done at USOF and DoT Hq. The LWE being project of National importance, the same is being monitored at MHA and PMO level for expenditure implementation. In respect of the Scheme to provide Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Secretary (Telecom) has written D.O. letters to Chief Secretaries of LWE affected States to constitute Committees at the State level with the representatives of State Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for monitoring the project and implementation issues.

(ix) The subsidy is being disbursed centrally (USOF HQ) for the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) and are still in roll out phase. The roll out of GPs for provisioning of broadband connectivity under NOFN is being constantly monitored at HQ level. However, the CCAs have been appointed as Designated Monitoring Authority (DMA).

(x) The Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management in Assam, NE-I & NE-II, TCIL is DMA which conducts the acceptance testing & furnishes the commissioning certificate and on the basis of said certificate CCAs disburses the subsidy to Service Provider.

7 Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT) C-DoT signs MoU with DoT to achieve the defined performance in the financial year, C-DoT Project Board periodically reviews the physical and financial progress of the project which are also sent to DoT. The C-DoT Steering Committee and Governing Council also monitors the projects to the review of Annual Business Plan of C-DoT

(c) The action taken and the outcome of the monitoring reports of various schemes are tabulated are as under:-

S. No. Name of the Schemes Action taken and outcome of monitoring reports

1 National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) 1. In principle approval of layout of plan for setting up of physical infrastructure for NICF at Ghitorni, was obtained from South Delhi Municipal Corporation.

2. necessary clearances from Airport Authority of India, Electricity Department (BSES) were obtained.

3. Building drawing were submitted to South Delhi Municipal Corporation for approval which was further forwarded to the Chief Fire Office, Delhi for approval.

4. 20 room hostel are in the advance stage of completion.

5. Training mandays increased to 10220 during financial year 2015-16 from 5440 during financial year 2014-15.

2 Wireless Planning & Co-ordination (WPC)/Wireless Monitoring Organization (WMO The progress reports sent by the units are periodically reviewed for proper and timely implementation of the schemes.

3 Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.(ITI) The Monitoring Committees are conducting meetings at regular intervals. The implementation of the revival plan is under progress for all the CCEA approved schemes under the plan as well as non- plan head.

4 Establishment of Satellite Gateway Assistance to BSNL Consequent of the review meetings it was possible to remove the hurdles being faced by BSNL in its implementation.

5 Network for Spectrum As a result of these review meetings, various issues regarding ROW clearances have been taken up with various agencies like Railways, NHAI, BRO and State Governments. A lot of issues have been settled.

6 Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) There are five schemes namely:-

(1) NOFN:- 1,06,977 Km (48.13%) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid down in 46,623 Gram Panchayats and Broadband connectivity has been provided in 6,533 Gram Panchayats. The amount disbursed as on 31.03.2016 is Rs.4685.97 crore.

(2) LWE:- Out of the proposed 2199 locations, 1721 locations have started functioning and the amount disbursed as on 31.03.2016 is Rs.1213.56 crore.

(3) Rural Wireline Broadband:- Under this scheme, a total of 6,56,345 broadband connections and 15,671 Kiosks have been provided. The amount disbursed as on 31.03.2016 is Rs.458.75 crore.

(4) Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management in Assam, NE-I & NE-II:- In Assam 308 Nodes have been installed and Rs.32.17 crore is disbursed as on 31.03.2016. Under NE-I Rs.3.95 crore is disbursed as on 31.03.2016. Work awarded for trenching/laying in all the districts. 1394 Km duct laid, 995 Km OFC laid, 104 Nodes connected on OFC and 50 Nodes commissioned in Tripura. As regards NE-II out of 36 districts work awarded for trenching/laying for 30 districts. 2146 Km duct laid, 1053 Km OFC laid and 36 Nodes connected on OFC. The roll out is yet to start.

(5) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation A&N Islands:- Out of the estimated project cost of Rs.80.98 crore, an amount of Rs.8.10 crore has been disbursed as on 31.03.2016.

7 Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT) Efforts are made to resolve the issues affecting the progress to achieve the milestone planned.

</pre>
