

Development and expansion of telecom in rural areas

†1910. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector companies are working on many projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for development and expansion of telecom in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and the projects assigned to them and the cost of these projects; and

(c) whether the works of each of these projects have been completed as per the targets set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. Universal Service Providers, including private sector companies are contracted under following schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

(i) Shared Mobile Infrastructure for setting up of infrastructure sites (mobile tower sites) and provisioning of mobile services using these sites; and

(ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones.

(b) The names of companies contracted under above Schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and estimated cost of the scheme are given in Statement (See below).

(c) The work under the scheme of provisioning of Rural Community Phones has been completed as per the target set. However, there have been delays in implementation of Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF. 61 out of 7353 mobile towers and about 6600 out of 22007 Base Transceiver Stations are yet to be set up under the scheme.

The Government has also set up a Committee on 15th July, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Telecom) to consider all aspects of delay in rollout of mobile services under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF and suggest appropriate action that may be required to be taken in the facts and circumstances of the cases. The Committee has submitted its report recently and the same is under examination.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Names of companies working on Schemes of USOF and estimated cost of the scheme

Name of the Scheme	Target/Objective	Achievement till Oct '2011	Estimated Cost	Name of Infrastructure Provider (IP)/ Universal Service Provider (USP) working on the scheme
1	2	3	4	5
Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme [Part-A of the scheme for setting up of infrastructure sites (mobile tower sites)]	To install 7353 mobile towers for provision of mobile services in the rural and remote areas of the country, to be shared by three service providers in each area.	7292 (99.17%) mobile towers have been reported to be installed	Rs.474.56 crore	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, KEC International Limited, Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd. Viom Networks Limited, GTL Infrastructure Limited, Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited
Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme [Part-B of	To install 3 BTSs per mobile tower site for provision	15407 (70.42%) Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)	Rs.1 13.32 crore	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Reliance Communications Limited, Reliance Telecom Limited, Bharti Airtel Limited,

1	2	3	4	5
the scheme for provisioning of mobile services using infrastructure sites set up under Part-A of the Schemes]	of mobile services in the rural and remote areas of the country.	have been reported to be installed		Bharti Hexacom Limited, Dishnet Wireless Limited [Aircel], Aircel Limited Idea Cellular Limited, BTA Cellcom Limited, Idea Mobile Communications Limited, Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited, Vodafone Essar South Limited, Vodafone Essar Gujarat Limited
Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs)	To provide 40,694 Rural Community Phones /i.e. second Public Telephone in villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a Public phones (PCOs).	40,694 RCPs [BSNL : 21958 and 18736]	Rs.116 crore (approx.)	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL)