

and 75 per cent and 33 per cent of cell towers in rural and urban zones, respectively, by 2020; and

(c) whether Government is planning to provide any financial support to telecom operators for meeting their green energy targets, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) In response to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations dated 12.04.2011, DoT decided to adopt measures to green the Telecommunications sector and issued directions for implementation of green technology on 23.01.2012.

To examine the Technical feasibility and financial viability, DoT undertook 20 Pilot projects in USOF Ph.-I sites using Green Energy (SPV and SPV-wind hybrid) with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Based on the outcome of these pilots, MNRE further extended subsidy support to Telecom operators for carrying out 400 RET projects. The Telecom Industry has executed RET projects on RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) model. Approximately 2500 mobile towers are working on Renewable Energy Technology.

A committee consisting of officers from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), RESCO and Telecom Industry representatives have been constituted on 25th March, 2013 to facilitate increased use of alternative sources (Renewable Energy Technologies) for powering Telecom networks, develop sector specific schemes for promotion of green technologies and propose a program for deployment Renewable Energy option in the Telecom Sector.

(c) At present there is no scheme for providing financial support to the telecom operators for meeting the Green Energy targets.

**Activity maps for devolution of functions etc. to PRIs under the
National Food Security Act**

*137. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing activity maps for devolution of

function, funds and finances to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) under the National Food Security Act, 2013, if so the details thereof; and

(b) The deadlines set by the Ministry for completion of this activity mapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) An Expert Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the chairmanship of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament, for leveraging Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for more effective delivery of Public Goods and Services, in its report submitted in April, 2013, *inter-alia* emphasized the importance of Activity Mapping for meaningful devolution and recommended that Model Activity Maps can be attached to the guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for effective devolution of funds, functions and functionaries. As Department of Food and Public Distribution is not implementing any CSS, the above recommendation of the Expert Committee is not strictly applicable to this Department.

However, under National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA), provisions have been made for involvement of local authorities in its implementation, in line with provisions in the Constitution on powers, authorities and responsibilities of Panchayats. Article 243 G of the Constitution provides that the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authorities as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government, and such law may contain provisions for devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to (a) preparation of plans for the economic development and social justice and (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in Eleventh Schedule. Public Distribution System is included in the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Accordingly, it is provided in NFSA that the local authorities shall be responsible for the proper implementation of the Act in their respective areas and State Governments may assign, by notification, additional responsibilities for implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System to the local authorities. It is also provided that in implementing different schemes of the

Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and the State Governments, prepared to implement provisions of the Act, the local authority shall be responsible for discharging such duties and responsibilities as may be assigned to them, by notification, by the respective State Governments.

Central assistance to States for setting up Fast Track Courts

*138. SHRI C. M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether discontinuance of Central Assistance Scheme to States for setting up Fast Track Courts since 1 April, 2011 has affected the speedy delivery of Justice in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether even after discontinuance of the Scheme, Andhra Pradesh is still continuing with the Fast Track Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No such report has been received from the States that discontinuation of central assistance scheme to States for Fast Track Courts has affected the speedy delivery of justice in the country.

Setting up of subordinate courts is the responsibility of the State Governments under the Constitution of India. Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set-up by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court. Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were set-up to handle long pending cases on the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) and grants were provided to States for FTCs for the eleven year period from 2000-01 to 2010-11. The Central Scheme of grant to States for FTCs was discontinued after 31.03.2011. However, some States have continued FTCs beyond 31.03.2011 with their own resources. In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it has been resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of Fast Track Courts relating to offences against women children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society and provide adequate funds for the purpose of creating and continuing Fast Track Courts.