

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a discussion on health.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Would the provision be made in the Central Hall to serve this milk also so that all our friends take the benefit of it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give the suggestion to the appropriate quarters. Thank you very much.

Now, Question No. 443. Is the questioner, Shri A.V. Swamy, present or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Now, Question No. 443. Is the questioner present? Not present. Are there any supplementaries on Q.No. 443? None.

Now, Question No. 444.

#### **Funds for telecom connectivity in Odisha**

\*443. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government of Odisha, for provision of funds for telecom connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Odisha, is pending with the Department of Telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for immediate decision thereon and communication thereof to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) Government of Odisha had submitted a proposal for installation of mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of the State.

An integrated proposal covering 2199 locations in LWE affected areas including 253 sites in Odisha, for installation of mobile towers, was approved by the Union Cabinet on 4.6.2013 at an estimated project cost of ₹ 3046.12 crores. The project will be funded from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and executed and maintained by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

The project cost discovered by BSNL through open tender process is ₹ 3567.68 crores. At its meeting held on 13.6.2014, Telecom Commission recommended that the proposal be placed before the Union Cabinet for approval. The proposal is expected to be placed before the Union Cabinet shortly.