

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018
SOLAR-POWERED MOBILE TOWERS**

3265. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has installed solar-powered mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism-affected 10 States in the country, if so, details thereof including expenditure involved and its outcome;
- (b) whether Government has proposed to install additional mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism-affected districts in Phase-II of the project;
- (c) if so, the number of proposed mobile towers and source of funding;
- (d) whether it is also proposed to change the technology in this regard despite the fact that the technology applied in Phase-I is a success; and
- (e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) Government has installed 1979 new towers which are solar powered out of a total of 2355 mobile tower planned in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected 10 States in the country in LWE Phase-I project with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Project is being implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) through two private vendors and is on 2G technology. Subsidy is to be provided to BSNL towards capital cost and operational expenses for five years. An amount of Rs 2,137.59 crore has been utilised upto 13-03-2018.
- (b) & (c) Government has proposed to install 4072 additional towers in LWE Phase-II in LWE affected districts with funding from USOF.
- (d) On account of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and State Governments feedback that there are issues of call congestion, call drops and serviceability of the network, it was directed by MHA that the technology for LWE Phase II project be upgraded and latest technology be installed.

Therefore, 2G and 4G technologies is planned to be deployed in LWE Phase II.

- (e) The project is likely to be completed in eighteen months from the date of signing the agreement with the implementing agency.
