

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 2023**

TELECOM NETWORK

5327. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many tele-communication companies have failed in installing telecom network and infrastructure projects involving aspirational districts and those in the left wing extremists areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether DoT commissions and funds such projects through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of companies who have failed their obligation and advisory issued by DoT to these companies and response of those companies on the advisory or warning issued by DoT; and
- (d) the details of the further steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that telecom companies complete their projects in aspirational districts of the country as per time schedule?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Mobile services in an area are provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner. Further, Government has approved following Universal Service Obligation (USOF) funded schemes for provision of 4G based Mobile services in uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:

- i. **502 Aspirational District Project:** The Project at a cost of Rs. 686 Crore is for provisioning of 4G based Mobile service in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of four states in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan. Further, additional 27 uncovered villages of Madhya Pradesh are also proposed to be covered under this project.
- ii. **7287 Aspirational District Project:** The Union Cabinet has approved a project for provisioning of 4G Mobile Coverage in 7287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Odisha, with an estimated cost of Rs. 6,466 Crore.
- iii. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-II Project:** Under this project, 2,542 tower locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas across the 10 LWE States are planned to be covered by installing 4G based mobile towers, with an estimated cost of Rs. 2,211.17 Crore.

(c) & (d) The implementation of these projects are reviewed on regular basis for sorting out the issues related to law and order, land allocation, forest permission etc. In this regard, the implementing agencies are also advised to take necessary action for faster roll out of the project for early completion.
