

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
SUBSIDY TO CELLULAR OPERATORS
Ramadass Prof. M

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to cellular operators for providing services in rural, remote and inaccessible areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the provision of landline phones in the rural, remote and inaccessible areas would be affected if subsidy from the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund is extended to the cellular service providers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 216 FOR 6TH DECEMBER, 2006 REGARDING SUBSIDY TO CELLULAR OPERATORS.

(a) to (c) An Ordinance has been promulgated on 30.10.2006 to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to enable support for mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) will provide subsidy support for creation of infrastructure and for provision of mobile services by sharing this infrastructure in specified rural and remote areas of the country. A draft tender document for setting up and managing infrastructure sites and provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country has been placed on the Department of Telecommunications website www.dot.gov.in on 21.11.2006 for inviting comments/ suggestions from stakeholders.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) & (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.