

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3128
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATION WORK
Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether the work pertaining to rural telecommunication in West Singhbhum and East Singhbhum district is not going on satisfactorily;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Following steps are being taken by the Government to improve rural telecommunications:

(i) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of Individual Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in March, 2005 in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country. These include Baharagora and Ghatsila SDCA in East Singhbhum and Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Chandil, Jagannathpur, Jhinkpani, Kharsawah, Manoharpur, Noamundi, Saraikela (Adityapur) SDCAs in West Singhbhum district.

(ii) Government is in the process of launching a scheme to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country including West Singhbhum and East Singhbhum. The infrastructure shall be created in areas where there is no existing fixed wireless and mobile coverage. 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.

(iii) The work for installation of 3 Code Division Multiple Access Basic Transceiver Signal (CDMA-BTS) in East Singhbhum and 7 CDMA-BTS in West Singhbhum is in progress.

(iv) It has been planned to provide 20 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in East Singhbhum and 138 VPTs in West Singhbhum for coverage of unconnected villages.