

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2133
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN RURAL AREAS
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu

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

- (a) whether the Government has sanctioned the scheme to set up transmission towers to strengthen telecommunication system in rural areas as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated January 23, 2007;
- (b) if so, whether the tenders from private companies are being invited for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the total number of rural areas in the country where the necessity of setting up towers has been estimated;
- (d) whether these towers are being set up in all parts of the country; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The tenders have been invited from Basic Service Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers, Unified Access Services Licensees (USAL) and Shortlisted Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) comprising of both private and public sector companies.
- (c) A total of 7,871 towers will be set up in specified rural and remote areas of the country in 500 districts of 27 States.
- (d) & (e) These towers will be installed in the specified rural and remote areas of the country where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.