

30-148/2006-USF (Vol. V)
Government of India
Department of Telecommunications
Office of the Administrator, USO Fund
706, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated 28.07.2006

All the UASLs/ CMSPs/ BSOs
Railtel, Gailtel, Power Grid, GTL, Quipo, Essar etc.

Sub: Creation of shared infrastructure for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country

Dear Sir,

A proposal is under active consideration of Universal Service Obligation Fund to provide subsidy support for creation of infrastructure to be shared amongst three telecom service providers, for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country. Approximately 10,000 towers alongwith electricity connection, power backup etc. are proposed to be set up in rural areas, which are presently not covered by mobile signals. The telecom service providers and the short-listed infrastructure providers shall be eligible to create the said infrastructure while provision of mobile services would be taken up by the successful service providers only. A draft tender document for inviting comments/ suggestions for this project is likely to be finalized shortly.

2. The existing tower data of all the telecom service providers as on 31.03.2006 has been plotted on a GIS map and the uncovered area has been arrived at after taking out the area already covered by these towers assuming a uniform radius of coverage. The number of towers to be located in the uncovered area is being arrived at by simulating RF planning taking into consideration the actual terrain data.

3. To start with, location of the towers proposed to be installed in Jharkhand has been worked out on a sample basis and is being placed on DoT website ('Tender' head under 'What's New'). The number of towers to be installed may undergo a change depending upon the rationale adopted and the feedback received in this regard. It is requested that the comments/ suggestions in respect of the proposed towers in Jharkhand for provision of mobile services in the rural areas may please be sent by e-mail at ddgusf@gmail.com and kamal.bhagat@gmail.com by 07.08.2006. Your comments in this regard would be of immense use in carrying out the similar exercise for country wide tower positioning data to be provided in the draft tender document.

Thanking You,

Yours sincerely,

(Ashok Kumar)

Joint Administrator (Technical), USF
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