

# USO schemes in Tamil Nadu Circle

## The Service Providers for Tamil Nadu Service Area are:

- 1) BSNL, TN Circle &
- 2) Reliance Communication Ltd. (w.e.f. 01.10.2004)

BSNL, A&N Circle is the sole Service Provider in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Service Area.

The details of agreements entered into by the Department of Telecommunications with the Service Providers in Tamil Nadu Service Area and Andaman Nicobar Island Service Area have been listed in **Annexure-I**

The number of Village Public Telephones existing - as on 01.04.2002, 31.3.2005 & 30.9.2005 were as mentioned in **Annexure-II**

## Services Rolled Out:

***Village Public Telephone (VPT):*** A VPT each has been installed and maintained in each of the identified village as per Census 1991 & 2001. Villages with population of 2000 and above were enlisted under the scheme.

In Tamil Nadu, the number of the VPTs stands at 17899 while in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the count stands at 201. The region registered a cent percent roll-out target. M/s BSNL has been the sole operator which had rolled out the scheme in both the service areas.

The scheme envisages support in the form of Front-Loaded-Subsidy(FLS), at technology based rates, to cover the capital costs and also Equated-annual/quarterly-subsidy (EAS/EQS) to cover the operational costs. The tariff is regulated as per the TRAI guidelines.

***Rural Community Phones (RCP):*** An additional public telephone has been provided in such of those villages identified for village public telephone which had a population above 2000.

In Tamil Nadu, the number of RCPs targeted stands at 2857 (M/s BSNL-1416 & M/s RCL – 1441) whereas the support is provided for 2244 RCPs (M/s BSNL-1299 & M/s RCL – 945) after disallowing such of those installations where PCOs (Public Call Office phones) existed.

Here again, as for a VPT, the scheme envisages support in the form of FLS and EAS/EQS to cover the capital and operational costs respectively.

**Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RHDEL):** This scheme aims at providing household telephones in rural and remote areas.

The scheme broadly classifies the RHDELS as those installed prior to 01/04/2002 and those installed after 01/04/2002. While the former is supported by subsidy as the difference in rental actually charged from the rural subscribers and rent prescribed by TRAI, until the Access Deficit Charges (ADC) prescribed by TRAI takes into account such difference, the later is supported by subsidy based on Capital Recovery, Operational Expenses and Revenue.

The number of RHDELS being supported by the USOF scheme, as of 31/03/2009, stand at 274716 (M/s BSNL-45389 & M/s RCL – 229327), under various agreements.

**Infrastructure support for Mobile Services:** This scheme has been launched for setting up and managing infrastructure sites (towers) for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there was no existing fixed, wireless or mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services.

In Tamil Nadu, 328 sites have been identified of which 260 sites have been commissioned as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The support by USOF is in the form of EAS, payable quarterly, for 5 years.

**Wire-line Broadband Connectivity in Rural & Remote Areas Scheme:** The Agreement signed with BSNL on 20.01.09 provides to create a total capacity of 1778496 wire-line Broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions & kiosks from 27,789 DSLAMs, installed at existing rural and remote exchanges over a period of 5-years, i.e., by 2014.

These connections shall have throughput of at least 512 kbps always on and have capabilities to deliver data, voice and video services and support internet browsing, voice over IP, multimedia, video conferencing, e-learning, e-telemedicine, e-governance etc. They shall have provision to upgrade upto 2 Mbps.

The USOF subsidized Tariff Plan shall be

Tariff Plan	Min. speed	Free download	Rate per Mb of extra usage	Monthly charges
1	512 Kbps	400 MB	0.4	99/-
2	512 Kbps	1 GB	0.4	150/-

**Disbursements made towards USO subsidy under Pr.CCA, Tamil Nadu.**

USO SUBSIDIES on VPT, RCP & RHDEL - A bird's view									
(as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009)									
M/S BSNL			M/S RCL		TOTAL				
Claimed	Settled	Withheld / Disallowed	Claimed	Settled	Withheld / Disallowed	Claimed	Settled	Withheld / Disallowed	
VPT	48.70	48.53	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.70	48.53	0.17
RCP	3.51	3.19	0.32	3.42	1.55	1.87	6.93	4.74	2.19
RDEL	49.44	46.99	2.45	92.76	90.62	2.14	142.20	137.61	4.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101.65</b>	<b>98.71</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>96.18</b>	<b>92.17</b>	<b>4.01</b>	<b>197.83</b>	<b>190.88</b>	<b>6.95</b>

*[figures in crores]*

<b><u>USO Subsidy ON INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b> (as of 31st March 2009)			
BSNL			
Claimed	Settled	Withheld / Disallowed	
BSNL (IP)	0.520	0.003	0.517
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.517</b>

*[figures in crores]*