

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 866
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

NON-AVAILABILITY OF BSNL NETWORK IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

866. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that non-availability of network of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has become a serious problem in some parts of Himachal Pradesh, especially in Kangara district, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to take any corrective steps to solve this network issue and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

. (a)&(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) through its mobile network is covering a large part of Himachal Pradesh. As per inputs provided by Government of Himachal Pradesh around 418 villages in Himachal Pradesh, including 31 villages in Kangra District, are not covered by any mobile Telecom Service Provider (TSPs) including BSNL.

All TSPs are generally providing services in the country on a techno-commercial viability basis. In Himachal Pradesh hilly terrain and far flung villages with sparse population are the major reasons for mobile coverage not reaching to these uncovered villages by TSPs.

Government of India with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) plans to provide mobile coverage to all uncovered villages of the country in a phased manner based on availability of funds. The identification of uncovered villages is in the process through a web portal made available by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) to all State/Union Territory Governments for uploading the data regarding availability of mobile services in all the villages of a State/UT.
