GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.662
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2019

UNAVAILABILITY OF MOBILE SERVICES IN CERTAIN INHABITED VILLAGES

†662. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that 43,066 inhabited villages of the country have not been provided with mobile services so far;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c)   the extent to which Government has resolved the said reasons through modern technology and instruments?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): According to the data collected from the telecom service providers in 2018, it is estimated that there are 43088 villages (as per the Census 2011) in the country which are not covered by mobile services. The State/ Union Territories-wise list of uncovered villages is Annexed. The reasons for not having mobile services in these villages include, inter-alia, remote and tough terrain, areas diversely located with scattered population, law and order issues and commercially non-viable operations. However, mobile coverage in the uncovered villages is being provided in a phased manner. Following projects are being implemented for providing/facilitating telecom services in inhabited villages:

(1)   Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas: Under LWE Phase-II project, Government has approved to install 4072 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity.

(2)   North Eastern Region (NER): A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to install 6673 mobile towers for 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers for National Highways and strengthening of transmission network.

(3)   Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

(i)   Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
(ii)   Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation for Andaman & Nicobar from 260 Mbps to 2 Gbps
(iii) Augmentation of Intra Island OFC network in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
(iv)   Mobile connectivity in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to cover uncovered villages and seamless coverage on National Highway (NH 223)

(4)   Lakshadweep:

(i)   Augmentation of Satellite bandwidth from 102 Mbps to 1.71 Gbps in Lakshadweep
(ii)   Augmentation of 2G mobile coverage with EDGE Technology in Lakshadweep

(5)   BharatNet Project: BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to provide broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx 2.5 lakh) in the country. As on 27.01.2019, by laying 3,10,097 Km OFC, a total of 1,23,489 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected, out of which 1,16,876 Gram Panchayats are service ready.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband/ internet services is being provided at all the GPs in the country. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being provided at each GP, of these, 3 APs will be connected to Government Institutions such as Police Stations, Schools, Hospitals, and Post Offices, while 2 APs will be available for public use. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 41,139 GPs and out of these GPs, services are being provided in 10,883 GPs.

The list of villages without mobile services

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of inhabited villages without mobile services
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	165
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2745
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2215
4.	Assam	915
5.	Bihar	263
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	3563
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0
10.	NCT of Delhi	0
11.	Goa	47
12.	Gujarat	1262
13.	Haryana	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	211
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	328
16.	Jharkhand	1222
17.	Karnataka	869
18.	Kerala	0
19.	Lakshadweep	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5558
21.	Maharashtra	6117
22.	Manipur	877
23.	Meghalaya	2691
24.	Mizoram	314
25.	Nagaland	328
26.	Odisha	9940
27.	Punjab	4
28.	Puducherry	0
29.	Rajasthan	1402
30.	Sikkim	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	83
32.	Telangana	647
33.	Tripura	16
34.	Uttarakhand	552
35.	Uttar Pradesh	295
36.	West Bengal	437
	TOTAL	**43,088**

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