

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

**EXPANSION OF TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL, BACKWARD AND TRIBAL
AREAS**

230 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of plans made by Government for expansion of telecom services in rural, backward, tribal areas, especially the naxalism affected areas in the country;
- (b) the targets set and achieved for providing telecom services during the last three years, State-wise details thereof, including Bihar;
- (c) the number of new mobile towers proposed to be installed and having been installed in the districts identified in Bihar, especially in tribal/naxal affected/rural areas, and Valmikinagar in West Champaran; and
- (d) the funds allocated/spent by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance telecom connectivity in the rural and predominately tribal areas, areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), border areas, Aspirational Districts and islands of the country. The details of the schemes are attached as **Annexure-I**. Also, BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project can be utilized by Service providers, for provisioning of telecom services.
- (b) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country including the state of Bihar in a phased manner. During the last three years from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2022 and from 31.03.2022 to 31.12.2022, around 6,14,721 number of net Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed and 1,21,609 number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) are made service ready in the country including 42,813 BTSs and 2,912 GPs in Bihar. The State/UT wise details of the net BTSs installed and GPs made service ready in the country is attached as **Annexure-II**.
- (c) Under various USOF Schemes, around 252 villages are being covered with mobile connectivity in the state of Bihar including rural, tribal, LWE affected areas, Valmikinagar of West Champaran. In addition, 59 villages of Bihar with 2G/3G connectivity are being upgraded to 4G connectivity. Around 18,324 number of mobile telecom towers have been installed during last three years in the State of Bihar including 26 towers in the Valmikinagar of West Champaran districts.
- (d) As of 31.12.2022, Rs. 386 Crore has been allocated/disbursed/spent under various ongoing mobile projects schemes of USOF for Bihar.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 230 to be answered on 03rd February 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services in Rural, Backward and Tribal Areas"

Details of schemes/projects to improve the telecommunication connectivity in rural, tribal and LWE affected areas across the country:

- Saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country. The estimated project cost is Rs. 26,316 Cr.
- Provision of 4G mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-II. The estimated project cost is Rs. 2,211 Cr.
- Provision of 4G Mobile Services in North Eastern Region of the country under Comprehensive Telecom Development Program for NER. The estimated cost for schemes is Rs. 3,637 Cr.
- Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 7,287 Aspirational District villages (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha). And provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States (namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan). The estimated cost for projects is Rs. 7,152 Cr.
- Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas. The estimated project cost is Rs. 337 Cr.
- Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 130 Cr.
- Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands.
- BharatNet project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 230 to be answered on 03rd February 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services in Rural, Backward and Tribal Areas"

State/UT wise details of BTSs Installed and GPs made Service ready is as below:

S. No.	State/UT Name	Year 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020		Year 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021		Year 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022		Year 01.04.2022 to 31.12.2022	
		Net BTS installed	No. of GPs made Service Ready	Net BTS installed	No. of GPs made Service Ready	Net BTS installed	No. of GPs made Service Ready	Net BTS installed	No. of GPs made Service Ready
1	Andaman & Nicobar	77	7	32	14	48	36	6	62
2	Andhra Pradesh	6017	246	3153	55	-84	19	2864	3490
3	Arunachal Pradesh	999	285	213	315	431	451	286	183
4	Assam	5213	1624	4491	3	2760	13	1903	0
5	Bihar	17731	2280	8662	602	9710	21	6710	9
6	Chandigarh*	328	1	132	0	71	0	58	0
7	Chhattisgarh	5364	1068	3622	2809	4025	1370	1618	602
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	247	32	109	1	136	4	36	0
9	Goa	381	0	306	0	369	0	633	0
10	Gujarat	21219	7312	13278	1569	9085	1349	3770	128
11	Haryana	4520	6188	5355	6204	3042	6204	2186	6204
12	Himachal Pradesh	2942	27	2324	93	1344	41	1201	2
13	Jammu & Kashmir	2976	788	1657	217	1199	87	1270	20
14	Ladakh		64		19	167	4	193	2
15	Jharkhand	5467	109	4833	866	5088	814	2141	42

16	Karnataka	-3622	0	5687	0	3921	4	5479	0
17	Kerala	4545	0	1404	0	4286	0	2263	0
18	Lakshadweep	18	0	1	0	3	9	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	7648	249	7757	2375	5364	2504	2085	177
20	Maharashtra	22878	15825	15128	3368	20585	3171	12682	1778
21	Manipur	1609	640	713	464	435	33	264	51
22	Meghalaya	1244	98	402	321	833	103	339	3
23	Mizoram	878	207	333	185	283	64	179	27
24	Nagaland	1161	28	296	22	193	98	127	0
25	NCT of Delhi	1896	0	20246	0	6796	0	1550	0
26	Odisha	3545	3858	8521	1900	4799	886	2677	97
27	Puducherry	234	0	155	0	137	0	132	0
28	Punjab*	5715	4744	5628	117	3489	0	2901	0
29	Rajasthan	6682	361	976	203	5481	49	4631	0
30	Sikkim	407	3	221	0	285	12	82	25
31	Tamil Nadu	14140	0	8027	0	7261	0	4428	1110
32	Telangana	6487	0	375	0	1247	5272	5495	1723
33	Tripura	1367	161	470	6	383	16	188	7
34	Uttar Pradesh	36951	937	28221	2410	21870	6221	14483	4011
35	Uttarakhand	4315	9	3303	2	2476	8	963	122
36	West Bengal	23593	887	12706	378	10310	112	7161	203
Total		215172	48038	168737	24518	137828	28975	92984	20078

*Details on the BTSs of M/s Reliance Jio Infocom for Chandigarh are included in the State of Punjab.
