

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2619
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

INTERNET AND MOBILE CONNECTIONS IN NER

2619 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of mobile operators besides the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) providing services in the North Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) total stake of the BSNL in the region; and
- (c) the area in the NER still not connected with the internet/mobile services?

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

- (a) Besides Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), following Telcom Service Providers (TSPs) are providing services in the North Eastern Region (NER):
 - i. Bharti Airtel Limited
 - ii. Bharti Hexacom Limited
 - iii. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited
 - iv. Vodafone Idea Limited
- (b) BSNL has 12.43% subscribers market share in the NER.
- (c) The state-wise count of villages in NER that are still not connected with the internet/ mobile services is as below:

S. No.	State / UT	Total count of Villages*	Villages not connected with mobile services
1	Arunachal Pradesh	5993	2626
2	Assam	26429	1921
3	Manipur	2612	492
4	Meghalaya	7100	1370
5	Mizoram	867	123
6	Nagaland	1535	356
7	Sikkim	461	304
8	Tripura	937	143
Total		45934	7335

**count of villages as per data provided by Registrar General of India.*

Various mobile projects are being implemented with viability gap funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance internet/ mobile services in the NER. Out of a total of 5,005 mobile towers planned in the NER, 2,127 towers have already been commissioned. Under the BharatNet project, as on 30-06-2023, out of a total of 12,079 Gram Panchayats (GPs), 6,148 have already been connected by Optical Fibre Cable in the NER.
