

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

TELECOM FACILITY TO VILLAGES

*208. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of villages in the country are yet to be connected with telecom facilities particularly mobile telephones and if so, the number of villages covered along with those yet to be covered with mobile telephones, State-wise;
- (b) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges installed and proposed to be installed in the country to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, separately in rural and urban areas;
- (c) the details of villages proposed to be covered with telephone facilities during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise; and
- (d) the time by which all the villages are proposed to be covered with telecom facility and the action taken by the Government to achieve the target?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.208 FOR 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016 REGARDING “TELECOM FACILITY TO VILLAGES”.

(a) The Government is committed to provide a robust telecom service in all parts of the country including rural, backward & hilly areas. There are 55,669 villages (As per a survey conducted in 2014) in the country that do not have mobile coverage. State-wise list of total inhabited villages and uncovered villages is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) Details of number of towers in rural and urban areas are not being maintained separately by the Department of Telecommunication and no new telephone exchanges has been installed during last three years and current year. However, Licensed Service Area wise details of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed during the last three financial years and current financial year (till 30.09.2016) and total BTSs as on 30.09.2016 are at **Annexure-II**.

(c)&(d) Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritized to provide mobile communication services in uncovered villages in LWE affected areas, North-Eastern States, Island territories, and Himalayan States and Western Border States in the first phase, with financial support from USO Fund, as detailed below:

(i) Government approved a proposal on 10.09.2014 to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 5336.18 crore. The project envisages provision of mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. State-wise details are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

(ii) Government, on 20.08.2014, approved a project to provide Mobile Services in 2199 locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 3567.58 crore. The project is being executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). 2186 mobile towers are radiating as on 21.11.2016. State-wise details are enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

(iii) Telecom Commission has given ‘in principle’ approval on 07.11.2014 for Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands with the total estimated investment of Rs. 221.05 crores. The project will provide mobile communication in 181 uncovered villages in A&N Islands and strengthen the communication in 10 villages of Lakshadweep Islands.

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**State-wise list of uncovered villages with mobile services
(As per survey done in 2014 based on census 2011)**

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of inhabited villages	Number of Uncovered Villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16335	3812
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2886
3.	Assam	25372	2885
4.	Bihar	39073	2534
5.	Chhattisgarh	19567	4041
6.	Goa	320	65
7.	Gujarat	17843	1275
8.	Haryana	6642	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	2416
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6337	460
11.	Jharkhand	29492	5949
12.	Karnataka	27397	0
13.	Kerala	1017	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5926
15.	Maharashtra	40959	4792
16.	Manipur	2515	610
17.	Meghalaya	6459	2389
18.	Mizoram	704	258
19.	Nagaland	1400	137
20.	Odisha	47675	10398
21.	Punjab	12168	91
22.	Rajasthan	43264	770
23.	Sikkim	425	23
24.	Tamil Nadu	15049	113
25.	Telangana	10347	1009
26.	Tripura	863	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97814	266
28.	Uttarakhand	15745	1876
29.	West Bengal	37469	487
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	684	190
31.	Puducherry		0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		5
33.	Daman & Diu		1
34.	Lakshadweep		1
	TOTAL	597608	55669

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SN	LSA Name	Number of BTSs installed during last three financial years i.e. from 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2016	Number of BTSs installed during current financial year i.e. from 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016	Total Number of BTSs as on 30.09.2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	32,331	13,133	1,05,716
2	Assam	8,486	3,549	26,024
3	Bihar	12,620	4,588	61,180
4	Delhi	29,652	7,723	67,244
5	Gujarat	26,425	7,443	79,420
6	Haryana	11,966	3,278	32,787
7	Himachal Pradesh	4,168	1,827	13,001
8	Jammu and Kashmir	5,701	1,336	17,977
9	Karnataka	35,391	13,016	1,01,603
10	Kerala	20,649	13,022	66,180
11	Kolkata	11,737	4,104	35,314
12	Maharashtra	33,294	13,229	1,10,581
13	Madhya Pradesh	26,936	4,537	77,748
14	Mumbai	14,056	2,902	44,159
15	North East	6,266	2,515	16,731
16	Odisha	10,135	3,188	34,032
17	Punjab	16,935	13,045	56,722
18	Rajasthan	17,021	8,424	60,642
19	Tamil Nadu	35,732	11,244	1,13,885
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	26,846	9,087	81,140
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	15,268	7,475	60,733
22	West Bengal	10,027	6,128	46,130
	Grand Total	4,11,642	1,54,793	13,08,949

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**Mobile Towers proposed for uncovered villages and along National Highways in
NER :**

S.No.	STATE	No. of Villages proposed to be covered	Number of Towers Proposed for Uncovered Villages	No. of Towers proposed along National Highways
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	1893	149
2	Assam	2503	1874	33
3	Manipur	528	384	53
4	Meghalaya	2374	2162	11
5	Mizoram	252	227	19
6	Nagaland	134	112	48
7	Sikkim	23	19	1
8	Tripura	2	2	7
	TOTAL	8621	6673	321

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State-wise breakup of mobile tower locations in LWE Affected Areas

S. No.	State	No. of locations identified by MHA	No. of Mobile Towers Installed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	54
2.	Bihar	184	184
3.	Chhattisgarh	497	490
4.	Jharkhand	782	782
5.	Maharashtra	60	60
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22	22
7.	Odisha	253	248
8.	Telangana	173	172
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78	78
10.	West Bengal	96	96
Total		2,199	2186
