GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3647
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMER, 2016

TELEPHONE AND BROADBAND IN RURAL AREAS

3647. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
         SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
         SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
         DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether BSNL is the sole service provider offering broadband and landline and mobile services in some areas in the country where private players are yet to penetrate;

(b)   if so, the details of such areas, State-wise;

(c)   whether at a time when the Central Government is giving a major push to the Digital India programme, many villages are yet to be connected with telecom facilities by BSNL;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Government to ensure that BSNL provide broadband and mobile/landline services in left out area and also increase the Internet speed where the company is already providing Internet broadband services?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   State-wise details of villages covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with mobile facility along with rural BTS (Base Transceiver Station) working, villages covered with VPT (Village Panchayat Telephone) facility and villages covered with broadband service are given at **Annexure-I, Annexure-II** and **Annexure-III** respectively. The details of areas where BSNL is the sole provider offering broadband and landline and mobile services are not maintained by BSNL/Government.

(c) to (e) In order to provide telecom facilities to uncovered villages following initiatives have been taken by Government through BSNL in rural areas:

   i.   BSNL is providing wireline broadband services covering 651 out of 656 District Headquarters (DHQ), 6137 out of 6454 Block Headquarters (BHQ) and more than 173000 villages have been covered with broadband facility.

ii.   Government of India has planned to provide broadband facility to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in phased manner. Under first phase of project, 1 lakh GPs are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by March, 2017. As on 20.11.2016, OFC has been laid to 63,631 GPs with a total length of 1,45,693 km. Out of these, 14,009 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity. In second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs by September, 2018.

iii. 2186 mobile towers have been set up in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected states.

iv.   Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region (NER) with an estimated cost of Rs.5336.18 crores which is funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). 6673 mobile towers are planned to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages. 321 mobile towers along National Highways in NER are also planned.

v.   7317 mobile towers have been installed with financial support from USOF under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for the villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage.

vi.   6,56,345 broadband connections have been provided and 15,671 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas under agreement between USOF with BSNL for Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme towards providing broadband connection by using existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network.

vii. BSNL has undertaken following steps to strengthen broadband network and increase internet speed:
      1) Augmentation of Broadband core network links.
      2) Peering with many content providers.
      3) Installation of Catching Server in BSNL Network
      4) Augmentation of Broadband Network traffic carrying capacity by upgradation of various equipments involved in delivering Internet Services.

Annexure-I

State/Circle wise details of Village covered with Mobile services (as on 30.9.2016)

Sl No.	Name of circle/ Metro Distt.	Total Villages in country	Total no of Villages covered	Total Rural 2G BTS working
1	Andaman & Nicobar	501	323	101
2	Andhra Pradesh	27800	22633	4774
3	Assam	26395	20291	848
4	Bihar	44874	28045	2224
5	Chennai	1544	1515	363
6	Chhattisgarh	19567	12306	1233
7	Gujarat	18309	13238	2494
8	Haryana	6,841	4,475	1,606
9	Himachal Pradesh	19786	16930	947
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6652	5289	726
11	Jharkhand	29354	22021	1271
12	Karnataka	29340	22022	3233
13	Kerala	1489	1489	3772
14	Kolkata	437	437	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	51929	30470	2181
16	Maharashtra	44010	20972	4574
17	North East I	8646	2799	494
18	North East II	9514	5205	497
19	Odisha	51313	27872	2163
20	Punjab	12313	11321	2090
21	Rajasthan	41353	26343	2655
22	Tamil Nadu	13595	12162	2763
23	Uttar Pradesh (East)	80573	71766	3849
24	Uttar Pradesh (West)	23781	14255	1662
25	Uttarakhand	16853	13485	711
26	West Bengal	38405	25516	1829
	Total	6,25,174	4,33,180	49,060

State/Circle wise details of villages covered/yet to be covered with VPT facility
(as on 30.09.2016)

S. No.	Name of Circle	No. of villages assigned for VPT facility as per census 2001	No. of villages yet to be covered with VPT facility
1	Andaman & Nicobar	501	149
2	Andhra Pradesh	26613	1491
3	Assam	25124	432
4	Bihar	39032	91
5	Chhattisgarh	19744	1416
6	Gujarat	18159	58
7	Haryana	6764	86
8	Himachal Pradesh	17495	86
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6417	30
10	Jharkhand	29354	514
11	Karnataka	27481	30
12	Kerala	1372	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	52117	131
14	Maharashtra	41442	726
15	North East I	7347	328
16	North East II	7456	1209
17	Odisha	47529	2184
18	Punjab	12301	236
19	Rajasthan	39753	83
20	Tamil Nadu	15492	0
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	74161	16
22	Uttar Pradesh (West)	23781	74
23	Uttarakhand	15761	135
24	West Bengal	38405	834
	Total	593601	10339

Status of Broadband Service coverage in Telecom Circles as on 31-10-2016

S. No.	Circle	District HQ		Block HQ		Villages	
		Total	Covered	Total	Covered	Total	Covered
1	Andaman & Nicobar	3	3	7	5	501	120
2	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	1126	1126	27800	13125
3	Assam	27	26	219	179	26395	6995
4	Bihar	38	38	534	454	44874	8043
5	Chhattisgarh	27	27	146	141	19567	4315
6	Chennai	3	3	27	27	1544	1544
7	Gujarat	33	33	161	161	18309	7970
8	Haryana	21	21	119	119	6841	4630
9	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	78	77	19786	8163
10	Jammu & Kashmir	22	22	143	92	6652	2533
11	Jharkhand	24	24	211	211	29354	2736
12	Karnataka	30	30	176	176	29340	11235
13	Kerala	14	14	152	152	1489	1367
14	Kolkatta	5	5	19	19	437	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	51	51	313	313	51929	6142
16	Maharashtra	36	36	362	362	44010	11290
17	North East-I	19	19	112	75	8646	535
18	North East-II	40	36	181	80	9514	1889
19	Odisha	30	30	314	314	51313	10093
20	Punjab	24	24	138	138	12313	10021
21	Rajasthan	33	33	247	247	41353	5672
22	Tamil Nadu	31	31	362	362	13595	9380
23	Uttar Pradesh (East)	48	48	582	582	80573	25763
24	Uttar Pradesh (West)	27	27	239	239	23781	3753
25	Uttarakhand	13	13	95	95	16853	2923
26	West Bengal	22	22	391	391	38405	12831
	Total	656	651	6454	6137	625174	173068
	%age of coverage		99.24%		95.09%		27.68%

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