

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.976  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017**

**TELECOM SERVICES IN NER**

976. SHRI PREM DAS RAI:  
SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total teledensity and the trend of mobile phone penetration in the country, State-wise including Sikkim;
- (b) whether all districts of North Eastern Region (NER) including Tripura and Sikkim have been covered with telecommunication network;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the timeframe to cover the same;
- (d) the steps taken to improve mobile communication penetration in North Eastern Region including Tripura and Sikkim; and
- (e) whether the new security features will impact the cost of manufacturing of phones and therefore, mobile penetration in India and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The service area wise total teledensity as on 30.11.2016 and the number of mobile telephone connections in the country during the last three years and the current year are given in the **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) All District Head Quarters (DHQ) of North Eastern Region (NER) including Tripura and Sikkim are covered with telecommunication network. The details are given as under:

<b>Physical Status</b>		Assam	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Tripura	Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Nagaland	Sikkim
<b>DHQ</b>	<b>Total DHQ</b>	33	11	8	8	16	9	11	4
	<b>DHQ Covered with GSM service</b>	33	11	8	8	16	9	11	4

Source: BSNL

(d) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER):** On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a 'Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region'. The Project envisages to provide 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. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crores. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The project is targeted to be completed by September 2018. The details are given as under:

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Sl. No	States	Mobile Coverage of Uncovered villages in NER			Mobile Coverage along National Highway in NER		Transmission Media Plan in NER		Consolidated
		No. of uncovered villages	No. of Tower Planned to be installed	Total Cost (Rs. In Crore)	No. of Towers planned to be installed	Total Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Total length of OFC to be laid (kms)	Total cost (Rs. in Crore) (OFC & Eqpt)	
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	1893	1298.82	149	126.64	1587	136.44	1561.90
2	Assam	2503	1874	1489.57	33	27.53	228	25.09	1542.19
3	Manipur	528	384	291.52	53	44.21	172	16.31	352.04
4	Meghalaya	2374	2162	1368.44	11	9.18	124	12.77	1390.39
5	Mizoram	252	227	201.37	19	15.85	747	65.26	282.48
6	Nagaland	134	112	99.47	48	40.04	154	17.57	157.08
7	Tripura	2	2	2.54	7	5.84	76	10.98	19.36
8	Sikkim	23	19	18.36	1	0.83	126	11.55	30.74
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8621</b>	<b>6673</b>	<b>4770.08</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>270.13</b>	<b>3213</b>	<b>295.97</b>	<b>5336.18</b>

(e) The new security features may not necessarily lead to increase in mobile handset costs. Mobile penetration also depends on several other factors like Government policies, Tariff, Quality of Service provided by operators etc. Therefore, the impact of security features on mobile penetration cannot be assessed in isolation.

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Service area wise total teledensity and the number of mobile telephone connections during the last three years and the current year as on 30.11.2016 in the country:

Sr.No.	Service Area	Total mobile telephone connections (in million)				Total Teledensity (in %) as on 30.11.2016
		As on 31.03.2014	As on 31.03.2015	As on 31.03.2016	As on 30.11.2016	
1	Andhra Pradesh	67.15	71.95	74.65	79.18	90.94
2	Assam	15.28	17.15	18.56	20.54	63.25
3	Bihar	61.59	69.31	74.51	80.38	58.17
4	Gujarat	54.54	58.56	62.27	66.16	105.26
5	Haryana	21.25	22.01	23.26	23.33	85.29
6	Himachal Pradesh	7.12	7.86	8.89	9.65	137.34
7	Jammu & Kashmir	7.94	9.31	9.82	10.92	88.37
8	Karnataka	54.32	58.05	61.34	65.71	108.21
9	Kerala	31.12	31.35	34.31	37.24	109.65
10	Madhya Pradesh	55.48	60.60	65.67	65.40	63.39
11	Maharashtra	72.59	76.94	84.10	88.75	91.03
12	North East	9.41	10.50	11.07	12.19	87.60
13	Odisha	25.13	27.87	29.06	32.14	75.91
14	Punjab	31.21	30.63	31.75	35.21	116.33
15	Rajasthan	52.65	55.21	60.09	63.74	87.54
16	Tamil Nadu	75.17	80.32	81.35	83.87	121.08
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	76.98	83.40	92.24	99.97	
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	48.76	52.02	57.60	61.45	70.17
19	West Bengal *	42.29	47.07	49.50	54.15	68.64
20	Kolkata	21.07	22.56	25.03	27.17	175.62
21	Delhi	42.58	46.19	47.24	49.11	240.60
22	Mumbai	30.89	30.67	31.80	33.70	155.61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>904.52</b>	<b>969.54</b>	<b>1034.11</b>	<b>1099.97</b>	<b>87.85</b>

Source: DoT compiled data

\*The state of Sikkim is included in the West Bengal service area.

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