

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1838  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017**

**TELECOM SERVICES IN VILLAGES**

1838. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government for provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas of the country;
- (b) the details of the villages connected with the telecom services under the said schemes/programmes so far across the country, State-wise and scheme/ programme-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds sanctioned and utilized under the said schemes/ programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme/ programme-wise; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide telecom services in each village of the country along with the achievements thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a),(b) & (d) The details of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas of the country are given below:

- (i) **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 (NER). The Project envisages providing mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The State-wise details are at **Annexure-I**.
- (ii) **Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas:** The Government had sanctioned a project to install mobile towers at 2199 locations with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 10 States, which are affected by the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). In addition, to increase the coverage in LWE affected areas, Government has sanctioned additional 156 locations for provision of Mobile Services. The State-wise details are at **Annexure-II**.

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(iii) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands:** 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 a total estimated investment of Rs. 221.05 crore, which consists of the following components:

- (a) Rs 91.16 crores for providing 2G (voice) coverage in uncovered villages.
- (b) Rs 9.40 crores for providing seamless 2G (voice) connectivity along NH.
- (c) Rs 20 crores for augmentation of OFC Network.
- (d) Rs 100.49 crores for augmentation of Satellite system.

(iv) **BharatNet:** National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by November 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. A state- of- the-art future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks and with for 5G services and Internet of Things era with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. State-wise status of BharatNet is at **Annexure –III**.

(c) The details of the funds sanctioned and utilized under the schemes/programmes during the last three years and the current year is at **Annexure-IV**.

Contd...3/-

**Annexure-I****State-wise details of Mobile Coverage of Uncovered villages in NER**

S. N.	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)	Total Cost (Rs. in Crore)
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>

**Annexure-II****State-wise details of Locations identified by MHA**

S. N.	State	No. of Total Locations identified by MHA	No. of Mobile Towers Installed	No. of additional 156 towers	Number of villages connected
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	54	8	74
2.	Bihar	184	184	66	251
3.	Chhattisgarh	497	490	35	669
4.	Jharkhand	782	782	34	1067
5.	Maharashtra	60	60	5	82
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22	22	0	30
7.	Odisha	253	248	8	338
8.	Telangana	173	173	0	236
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78	78	0	106
10.	West Bengal	96	96	0	131
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>2984</b>

Contd...4/-

**State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017**

S.N.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Cable laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs Lit
1	Assam	1533	3799	4158	1420	1348	354
2	Bihar	5754	12199	12940	4967	4742	711
3	Chhattisgarh	4104	10213	7873	3304	3159	1289
4.	Haryana	6020	9776	10993	5907	5801	894
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	388	427	388	214	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	11784	12193	6026	6010	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35904	31113	12026	11643	3599
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26696	25129	12664	11843	1992
10.	Punjab	8049	9810	9153	6989	6745	637
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21069	20268	7114	7046	1725
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48556	44678	25363	23409	2785
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2792	2636	1503	1463	431
14.	West Bengal	2637	5175	4876	1822	1791	231
15.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	656	609	220	0
18.	Nagaland	994	2614	1475	831	462	0
19.	Manipur	904	333	232	154	122	26
20.	Mizoram	763	735	438	125	73	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1688	1584	834	810	79
22.	Meghalaya	1208	1212	525	433	191	0
23.	Gujarat	6905	10518	9542	5046	4478	1018
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2627	766	520	283	0
26.	Telangana	2017	4538	4462	2038	2038	206
27.	Odisha	3860	8121	7970	3109	3108	517
28.	Jharkhand	2713	5012	4669	1864	1775	529
29.	Himachal Pradesh	252	513	481	155	153	56
30.	Daman & Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124127</b>	<b>238489</b>	<b>220139</b>	<b>106276</b>	<b>100152</b>	<b>23147</b>

\*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre

<b>Scheme /Programme-wise funds utilized under the USOF schemes during each of the last three years and current financial year (April 2017 till date)</b>					
	<b>USOF</b>	<b>Figures in Crore</b>			
<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Schemes/ Programmes</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
1	BharatNet	1351.86	2415.10	5600.00	00
2	Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas	596.51	617.05	280.68	39.49
3	Satellite Augmentation(Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	00	8.10	00	00
4	Satellite Augmentation(Lakshadweep Islands)	00	00	4.65	00

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