

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2017**

MOBILE PENETRATION IN LWE AFFECTED AREAS

3853. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the Bharat Net Project at the cost of installing 27000 mobile towers in naxal affected districts of the country including the State of Maharashtra as directed by the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said project will impact the mobile penetration in the left-wing extremism affected areas and pose security challenges on account of lack of communication network; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the mobile penetration in the said areas and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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) No Madam. However, the Government on 20.08.2014 had approved a project for the installation of 2199 mobile towers in 10 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The estimated project implementation cost was Rs. 3567.58 crore, funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). BSNL had been nominated to execute the project. As on 31.07.2017, 2187 mobile towers out of 2199 are operational. The remaining mobile towers have not been set up due to security reasons. The project has been completed. The state-wise breakup of the locations and Tele-density data of LWE affected states are at **Annexure**.

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Annexure

Locations of Towers in LWE Affected States

| S. No. | State | No. of Total 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 | 173 |
| 9. | Uttar Pradesh | 78 | 78 |
| 10. | West Bengal | 96 | 96 |
| | Total | 2,199 | 2187 |

Tele-density of LWE Affected States

| S. No. | Service Area | Overall Tele-density (in percent) | Mobile Tele-density (in percent) |
|--------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana) | 97.54 | 95.73 |
| 2. | Bihar (including Jharkhand) | 61.69 | 61.48 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) | 67.60 | 66.64 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | 96.20 | 94.34 |
| 5. | Odisha | 81.46 | 80.80 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 74.83 | 74.45 |
| 7. | West Bengal | 74.25 | 73.84 |
