

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.669
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th JULY, 2017**

TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

†669. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:
SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:
SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of mobile phone and landline connections being provided by different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including Telecom PSUs in urban and rural areas separately, State/UT-wise and TSP-wise;
- (b) the percentage of rural households in the country that currently have access to telecom services including internet facilities, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the BSNL proposes to provide good quality telecom service including 3G services and install mobile towers in each village of the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard including the total number of 3G mobile towers erected in the villages, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of villages with a population of more than 5000 where BSNL has provided telecom services, State/UT-wise along with the number of such villages which are yet to be provided with these services, State/UT-wise and time by which the said services will be made available to these villages; and
- (e) whether the total number of mobile towers is adequate in comparison to the total number of subscribers in the country and if so, the details thereof including the number of mobile towers erected, State/ UT-wise and if not, 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) The Service Area-wise total number of mobile phone and landline connections provided by different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including Telecom PSUs in urban and rural areas as well as the details of TSP wise telephone connections as on 31-05-2017 are given at **Annexure-I and Annexure-II** respectively.

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(b) Based on the results of the latest survey on *Social Consumption: Education* conducted by NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) during January 2014 to June 2014, the estimated percentage of households (with at least one member of age 14 years and above) having access to use internet facility in rural areas, for each State/UT is given at **Annexure-III**

(c) BSNL has wide spread network covering rural areas based on techno commercial viability/feasibility. For improvement/up-gradation of mobile services in BSNL's network, Mobile equipment is being procured / upgraded progressively from time to time. At present GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) Phase VII+ expansion project is under roll out. It includes installation of 13213 3G Node Bs. Out of this 11585 3G Node Bs are already on air. Remaining Nodes are being commissioned progressively. Service area wise 3G BTSs (Base Trans-receiver Stations) installed in the network including rural areas is at **Annexure-IV**.

(d) Out of 20941 villages with a population of more than 5000, BSNL has covered 19430 villages with mobile services and remaining are progressively commissioned based on techno commercial viability & feasibility. Circle wise details is at **Annexure-IV**.

(e) The telecom towers are installed with a long-term view to serve for the license duration which is twenty years at a time. Roll out of new sites is a continuous process and depends on changing traffic requirements from customers' end. There is no universal criterion to fix number of towers as per geographic area or population density. Therefore, technically there is no specific correlation between the number of subscribers in the country versus the number of mobile towers erected by the service providers, as a single tower could accommodate multiple BTSs. The requirement for mobile tower in any area remains dynamic in nature. The location and required number of towers in any area is dependent upon many long-term factors such as physical terrain, frequency used, type of network – 2G, 3G or 4G, and short-term factors such as variations in user-density at a given location and time, re-location of towers due to non-renewal of tenancy agreements etc.

The total number of mobile towers in different licensed service areas is given in **Annexure –V**.

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Annexure-I**Service area wise land line and mobile telephone connections
as on 31.05.2017**

Sr. No.	Service area.	Total Landline Phones			Total Mobile Phones		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	303850	1315348	1619198	38880256	46509051	85389307
2	Assam	27333	125113	152446	13944771	8181467	22126238
3	Bihar	81166	222887	304053	49736199	36033509	85769708
4	Gujarat	187573	1134815	1322388	28177013	43794087	71971100
5	Haryana	68973	265914	334887	11378138	14030579	25408717
6	Himachal Pradesh	89496	54656	144152	7176676	3408144	10584820
7	Jammu & Kashmir	15913	113161	129074	6032368	6168156	12200524
8	Karnataka	185589	2078865	2264454	22251953	46976496	69228449
9	Kerala	1276719	816938	2093657	17641043	21909705	39550748
10	Madhya Pradesh	116294	897173	1013467	33519468	36785358	70304826
11	Maharashtra	339633	1524971	1864604	43536201	50859659	94395860
12	North East	24325	93944	118269	6424397	6272556	12696953
13	Odisha	62875	221263	284138	20650099	14003975	34654074
14	Punjab	238629	742923	981552	13908066	22748382	36656448
15	Rajasthan	122043	596216	718259	34793542	32927879	67721421
16	Tamil Nadu	358827	2153350	2512177	26009868	63770177	89780045
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	68512	418334	486846	53654700	52535147	106189847
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	39859	345985	385844	29910619	37455431	67366050
19	West Bengal	136664	183543	320207	40219402	18636029	58855431
20	Kolkata	0	845330	845330	2421620	26992434	29414054
21	Delhi	0	3221342	3221342	2584183	51601641	54185824
22	Mumbai	0	3041630	3041630	1422561	35147430	36569991
ALL- INDIA TOTAL		3744273	20413701	24157974	504273143	676747292	1181020435

Source: DoT compiled data

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Annexure-II

TSP wise Land line and Wireless telephone connections as on 31-05-2017

S.No.	Service provider	Land line			Wireless		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
	<u>Private operators</u>						
1	Bharti Airtel	0	3873631	3873631	140017092	138582341	278599433
2	TATA Teleservices Ltd.	54895	1776889	1831784	10353522	35075909	45429431
3	Quadrant Televentures Ltd. (formerly HFCL Infotel)	58572	205904	264476	0	0	0
4	Aircel	0	0	0	31920068	58813464	90733532
5	Reliance	1703	1166942	1168645	18548423	63797351	82345774
6	Reliance Jioinfocomm	0	0	0	28331094	89007361	117338455
7	Vodafone Essar	0	148889	148889	115636984	95313954	210950938
8	Telenor	0	0	0	13942758	34077565	48020323
9	Idea Mobile Communications	0	0	0	111014057	85228691	196242748
10	Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd.	9921	46545	56466	955409	3423838	4379247
	<u>Private</u> Total (1 to10)	125091	7218800	7343891	470719407	603320474	1074039881
-	<u>PSUs</u>				-	-	-
11	BSNL	3619182	9750298	13369480	33553736	69803771	103357507
12	MTNL	0	3444603	3444603	0	3623047	3623047
	<u>PSU</u> Total (11 to12)	3619182	13194901	16814083	33553736	73426818	106980554
	<u>All India Total</u> (Psu+Private) (1 to12)	3744273	20413701	24157974	504273143	676747292	1181020435

Source: -BSNL, MTNL, COAI, AUSPI.

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Annexure-III

Proportion of households having access to use Internet facility in Rural Areas

Sl. No.	State/UT	Proportion of households
1	Andhra Pradesh	33.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	20.0
3	Assam	9.9
4	Bihar	5.7
5	Chhattisgarh	2.5
6	Delhi	42.9
7	Goa	48.6
8	Gujarat	17.1
9	Haryana	21.4
10	Himachal Pradesh	25.6
11	Jammu & Kashmir	19.6
12	Jharkhand	4.7
13	Karnataka	15.8
14	Kerala	51.3
15	Madhya Pradesh	6.4
16	Maharashtra	21.4
17	Manipur	11.6
18	Meghalaya	12.5
19	Mizoram	22.4
20	Nagaland	44.9
21	Odisha	8.7
22	Punjab	23.0
23	Rajasthan	19.0
24	Sikkim	25.0
25	Tamil Nadu	34.2
26	Telangana	13.2
27	Tripura	5.7
28	Uttarakhand	14.3
29	Uttar Pradesh	14.6
30	West Bengal	8.1
31	A & N Islands	38.2
32	Chandigarh	35.8
33	Dadra & N. Haveli	10.1
34	Daman & Diu	42.2
35	Lakshadweep	56.1
36	Puducherry	58.0
	All-India	16.1
Source: NSS Report No. 575: Education in India		

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Annexure-IV

1. Circle wise 3G- BTSs installed-for answer to part (c)
2. Number of villages covered with mobile services by BSNL as on 31.05.2017-answer to part (d)

S.N	CIRCLE	Village Above 5000 population			3G BTS
		Total	Covered	yet to be covered	Total
1	Andaman/Nicobar	2	2	0	50
2	Andhra Pradesh	2286	2286	0	4453
3	Assam	330	271	59	895
4	Bihar	2936	2294	642	925
5	Chhattisgarh	90	79	11	511
6	Gujarat	1141	1121	20	2381
7	Haryana	602	602	0	1432
8	Himachal Pradesh	13	13	0	567
9	Jammu & Kashmir	147	134	13	513
10	Jharkhand	364	323	41	886
11	Karnataka	1000	1000	0	3023
12	Kerala	924	924	0	3810
13	Madhya Pradesh	614	537	77	1314
14	Maharashtra	1500	1387	113	2657
15	North East - I	140	134	6	413
16	North East - Ii	147	124	23	369
17	Orissa	210	210	0	1650
18	Punjab	308	308	0	1835
19	Rajasthan	952	917	35	2276
20	Tamil Nadu	1629	1629	0	2797
21	Uttaranchal	82	80	2	562
22	Uttar Pradesh (E)	2518	2433	85	2373
23	Uttar Pradesh (W)	1017	975	42	1433
24	West Bengal	1890	1548	342	690
25	Calcutta	0	0	0	887
26	Chennai	99	99	0	1160
	Total	20941	19430	1511	39862

Source: BSNL

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Annexure-V

Service Area-Wise Towers Installed to provide Mobile Services

Sr.	Telecom Circle (Licensed Service Area)	Number of towers installed to provide Mobile Services
1	Andhra Pradesh	34,491
2	Assam	10,070
3	Bihar	29,082
4	Delhi	19,021
5	Gujarat	25,898
6	Himachal Pradesh	4,973
7	Haryana	9,906
8	J&K	7,693
9	Karnataka	28,115
10	Kerala	15,791
11	Maharashtra	35,615
12	Mumbai	14,280
13	Madhya Pradesh	29,749
14	North East	6,392
15	Odisha	14,955
16	Punjab	17,557
17	Rajasthan	24,078
18	TamilNadu	27,689
19	Chennai	11,087
20	UP (East)	29,830
21	UP (West)	23,068
22	West Bengal	17,554
23	Kolkata	8675
	Total	445,569

Source: DoT compiled data
