

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH DECEMBER, 2017**

COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN MAHARASHTRA

†*133. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding percentage of coverage of communication network in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the communication network coverage in remote/forest regions of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *133 FOR 27TH DECEMBER, 2017 ON “COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN MAHARASHTRA”.

(a) & (b) A communication network basically include telephone penetration (wireless and wireline) in rural and urban areas of the country. As the licenses are given service area wise, therefore the data is also maintained service area wise and not district wise. The number of connections, teledensity (percentage of population covered) and the percentage share of Maharashtra Service Area in total number of connections in India as on 31st October 2017 is as under:

Service Area	Number of connections (in Million)					Teledensity (in %)	Share of Maharashtra in Total connection in India (in %)
	Rural	Urban	Total	Wireline	Wireless		
Maharashtra	43.38	52.64	96.03	1.80	94.23	95.58	7.95

(c) USOF is implementing projects to provide mobile connectivity in remote and rural uncovered areas. A project to provide mobile service in LWE (Left Wing Extremist) areas of Maharashtra is being implemented. Under this project 65 towers have been set up and are radiating. The Department has also planned to cover uncovered villages by mobile connectivity in phased manner based on availability of funds/ resources. The identification of uncovered villages is in progress through a web portal made available by DoT to all State Governments.

In addition, under the BharatNet program the Government plans to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The project is being implemented in a phased manner, with phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs being implemented currently. In Phase-I, 15317 GPs in Maharashtra were taken up, of which, optical fiber connectivity has been provided to 12993 GPs and 12062 GPs (78.75%) have been made service ready as on 20-12-2017.
