

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th MARCH, 2018**

PHONE FACILITY IN BACKWARD AND REMOTE AREAS

†2000. SHRI HARI MANJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of urban and rural families which do not have phone facility till date in the country;
- (b) whether the pace of expansion of telecommunication facilities in rural, backward, tribal and mountainous areas is slow as compared to pace of expansion of such facilities in urban areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide telephone facility to each family particularly in the rural and remote areas;
- (e) if so, the measures taken/being taken to expand the telecommunication facilities in the aforementioned areas; and
- (f) the funds allocated for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

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) The penetration of telephone connections is currently measured in terms of tele-density, i.e the number of telephone connections as a percentage of the population. Service area wise number of telephone connections in rural and urban areas, teledensity (number of telephones per 100 inhabitants) and the growth of telephone in both rural and urban areas are given at **Annexure-I and II**. Data on families not having telephone connection is not available with the Department.

(d) to (f) The Government has made specific efforts to extend the reach of telecom network to remote and rural villages and for that purpose created the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). The Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project to link each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) of India through optical fibre network to facilitate delivery of various e-Services and applications including e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce in the future. As on 25th February 2018, 1,03,279 GPs are service ready. A comprehensive telecommunication development plan for the North East Region for installing telecom towers to provide mobile connectivity in villages and enhancement of the Optical Fibre connectivity in the region has been taken up. The Government is augmenting connectivity to Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep to the mainland through undersea Optical Fibre Cable. The Government has also commissioned over 2,000 mobile towers in 10 states affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). A statement showing disbursement under USOF is at **Annexure III**.

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Annexure I

Sr. No.	Service area	Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.12.2017 (in million)		Teledensity (in %) as on 31.12.2017	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	Andhra Pradesh	38.39	47.45	59.52	189.16
2	Assam	14.35	8.51	51.90	155.60
3	Bihar	49.32	35.35	40.78	181.60
4	Gujarat	27.26	44.63	72.98	161.93
5	Haryana	11.25	14.52	63.41	139.02
6	Himachal Pradesh	7.42	3.32	117.06	385.39
7	Jammu & Kashmir	6.41	6.83	70.67	191.09
8	Karnataka	22.75	46.71	59.32	186.90
9	Kerala	19.74	23.27	73.11	255.17
10	Madhya Pradesh	33.82	41.09	44.02	139.41
11	Maharashtra	43.82	51.33	69.07	138.04
12	North East	6.54	6.45	61.78	177.59
13	Odisha	20.53	13.83	58.19	177.58
14	Punjab	14.06	24.90	80.91	176.18
15	Rajasthan	33.04	33.42	58.39	184.30
16	Tamil Nadu	26.01	63.40	94.35	143.40
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	53.70	47.58		
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	27.50	35.18	44.91	152.26
19	West Bengal	39.45	18.88	57.62	162.85
20	Kolkata	2.91	27.11	#	#
21	Delhi	2.71	56.06	#	#
22	Mumbai	1.72	39.63	#	#
	All- India	502.71	689.43	56.75	168.26

Source: DoT

Note : # Rural-urban break up of population for Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai service areas is not available.

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Annexure II

Sr. No.	Service area	Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.03.2014			Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.12.2017			CAGR (in %)	
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	Andhra Pradesh	28.58	40.61	69.19	38.39	47.45	85.84	8.18%	4.24%
2	Assam	9.20	6.27	15.46	14.35	8.51	22.85	12.59%	8.49%
3	Bihar	34.10	27.86	61.97	49.32	35.35	84.67	10.34%	6.55%
4	Gujarat	20.95	35.28	56.23	27.26	44.63	71.89	7.27%	6.47%
5	Haryana	10.35	11.40	21.75	11.25	14.52	25.77	2.24%	6.67%
6	Himachal Pradesh	4.77	2.61	7.37	7.42	3.32	10.73	12.52%	6.63%
7	Jammu & Kashmir	3.76	4.37	8.13	6.41	6.83	13.24	15.30%	12.67%
8	Karnataka	17.51	39.13	56.64	22.75	46.71	69.46	7.24%	4.83%
9	Kerala	16.97	17.04	34.01	19.74	23.27	43.00	4.12%	8.66%
10	Madhya Pradesh	24.79	31.79	56.58	33.82	41.09	74.91	8.63%	7.08%
11	Maharashtra	34.84	40.07	74.90	43.82	51.33	95.15	6.31%	6.83%
12	North East	4.39	5.17	9.55	6.54	6.45	12.99	11.23%	6.12%
13	Odisha	13.78	11.69	25.47	20.53	13.83	34.36	11.22%	4.58%
14	Punjab	12.45	19.98	32.43	14.06	24.90	38.96	3.30%	6.04%
15	Rajasthan	26.21	27.36	53.57	33.04	33.42	66.46	6.38%	5.48%
16	Tamil Nadu	21.91	56.18	78.09	26.01	63.40	89.41	4.68%	3.28%
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	38.32	39.46	77.78	53.70	47.58	101.27	9.41%	5.11%
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	22.70	26.60	49.30	27.50	35.18	62.68	5.25%	7.74%
19	West Bengal	27.74	15.06	42.80	39.45	18.88	58.34	9.85%	6.23%
20	Kolkata	1.77	20.38	22.15	2.91	27.11	30.02	14.22%	7.90%
21	Delhi	2.37	43.32	45.69	2.71	56.06	58.77	3.71%	7.11%
22	Mumbai	0.35	33.61	33.95	1.72	39.63	41.35	53.37%	4.49%
	All- India	377.78	555.23	933.02	502.71	689.43	1192.14	7.92%	5.94%

Source : DoT

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CCA-WISE DISBURSEMENT ACROSS DIFFERENT FINANCIAL YEARS				
Position as on 31-12-2017				
Figures in crores				
CCA	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
A&N	0.04	8.11	0.00	0.00
AMARNATH YATRA				6.91
ANDHRA PRADESH	19.03	1.33	0.66	0.31
ASSAM	32.35	0.55	0.71	0.17
BIHAR	4.05	2.58	0.88	42.43
CHATTISGARH	2.56	0.37	0.00	60.00
DOT HQ			1290.35	241.80
DOT-LWE	596.51	617.05	280.68	50.60
DOT-NOFN	1351.86	2415.10	5600.00	3100.00
GUJRAT	0.00	0.00	0.00	
HARYANA	1.17	1.82	2.56	0.00
HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.70	0.30	0.16	0.02
J&K	0.27	0.52	1.97	0.05
JHARKHAND	0.52	0.16	0.64	140.75
KARNATAKA	8.34	4.17	0.67	7.98
KERALA	3.75	1.32	6.22	
MAHARASHTRA	20.39	14.10		
MP	13.49	12.58	1.88	0.36
NE-I	2.30	6.74	15.00	0.02
NE-II	1.23	2.04	14.26	0.01
ORISSA	7.70	1.58	4.03	31.33
PUNJAB	8.48	6.56	2.44	0.32
RAJASTHAN	0.00		1.65	0.45
TAMIL NADU	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00
UP(E)	4.25	0.77	1.09	19.85
UP(W)	0.95	0.29	0.27	0.13
UTTARANCHAL	1.48	0.19	0.00	0.00
WEST BENGAL	5.52	1.76	0.92	18.38
Grand Total	2086.98	3100.00	7227.03	3721.89

Source:USOF, DoT. http://www.usof.gov.in/usof-cms/subsidy_tabular.jsp
