

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6095
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH APRIL, 2018**

PER-CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF SPECTRUM

6095. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether one of the biggest challenges for Digital India programme is slow pace of development of communication infrastructure and only ten percent spectrum is available to metro cities in the country as compared to the developed countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the per-capita availability of spectrum in metro cities, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether most of the rural areas are deprived of internet facility as Internet service providers are finding it economically unviable to provide the service in remote and rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being 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) & (b) Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands has been made available for allotment to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in various service areas including Metro cities. On an average 48.86 MHz spectrum in above spectrum bands has been made available to each TSP. Details of spectrum available for allotment to TSPs in various service areas including metros are at **Annexure-I**.

In the spectrum auction conducted in October 2016, a total of 2354.75 MHz of spectrum in these bands was put to auction, out of which, 964.8 MHz of spectrum was sold in 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. Further, the Government has also permitted various cases for spectrum sharing and spectrum trading among telecom service providers as per the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard.

Therefore, availability of spectrum is not an issue in the Telecom sector in our country.

- (c) As on 31st December 2017, there were 132.03 million Internet Rural subscribers out of total 445.95 million Internet Subscribers. Service Area-wise details of rural subscribers of Internet is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.
- (d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen broadband infrastructure:

- (i) BharatNet Project is being implemented in a phased manner to connect all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. In December 2017, Phase-I of BharatNet has been completed by connecting one lakh GPs. As on 25.03.2018, by laying 2,68,963 km Optical Fibre Cable

(OFC), a total of 1,13,964 Gram Panchayats have been connected, out of which 1,04,889 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided at all the Gram Panchayats in the country. The project is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

- (ii) A proposal for providing mobile services (including data service) at 4072 Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area has been considered and recommended by Telecom Commission with an estimated cost of Rs. 7,330/- Crores (excluding Taxes). The proposal is being submitted to the Cabinet for kind consideration.
- (iii) Under Comprehensive Telecom Development for North East Region (NER), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is implementing the project to install 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile (including data) coverage in 4119 uncovered villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 2258 Cr.
- (iv) M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited have been selected through tendering process to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile (including data) coverage in 2128 villages and National Highways in rest of NER at an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 Cr.

Spectrum Availability for Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in various frequency bands

Sl. No.	Service Area	Spectrum Availability (in MHz)								No. of TSPs in the Service Area	Per Capita Spectrum Availability (Spectrum available per TSP) (in MHz)
		700 MHz	800 MHz	900 MHz	1800 MHz	2100 MHz	2300 MHz	2500 MHz	Total		
1	Andhra Pradesh	70.0	35.0	40.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	435.0	9	48.33
2	Assam	70.0	30.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	426.8	8	53.35
3	Bihar	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	431.8	9	47.98
4	Delhi	70.0	35.0	44.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	439.0	9	48.78
5	Gujarat	70.0	35.0	40.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	435.0	11	39.55
6	Haryana	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	411.8	8	51.48
7	Himachal Pradesh	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	431.8	9	47.98
8	Jammu and Kashmir	70.0	25.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	401.8	7	57.40
9	Karnataka	70.0	35.0	40.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	435.0	9	48.33
10	Kerala	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	431.8	9	47.98
11	Kolkata	70.0	35.0	40.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	435.0	9	48.33
12	Madhya Pradesh	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	431.8	8	53.98
13	Maharashtra	70.0	35.0	40.4	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	435.0	9	48.33
14	Mumbai	70.0	35.0	44.4	110.0	80.0	60.0	40.0	439.4	8	54.93
15	North East	70.0	30.0	38.8	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	428.4	7	61.20
16	Orissa	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	431.8	8	53.98
17	Punjab	70.0	35.0	43.6	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	418.2	8	52.28
18	Rajasthan	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	411.8	10	41.18
19	Tamilnadu	70.0	35.0	40.4	118.8	80.0	60.0	40.0	444.2	10	44.42
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	411.8	10	41.18
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	70.0	35.0	37.2	109.6	80.0	40.0	40.0	411.8	10	41.18
22	West Bengal	70.0	30.0	38.8	109.6	80.0	60.0	40.0	428.4	10	42.84
Average											48.86

Note: FDD spectrum has been reflected as paired spectrum.

**Service Area wise Rural subscriber base of Internet
As on 31st December 2017**

Service Area	Number of Rural subscribers (in millions)
Andhra Pradesh	11.67
Assam	4.53
Bihar	11.05
Delhi	0.69
Gujarat	7.73
Haryana	3.59
Himachal Pradesh	2.01
Jammu and Kashmir	1.75
Karnataka	6.42
Kerala	7.11
Kolkata	0.90
Madhya Pradesh	6.24
Maharashtra	11.98
Mumbai	0.65
North East	2.20
Orissa	4.66
Punjab	4.31
Rajasthan	8.23
Tamilnadu	8.25
Uttar Pradesh (East)	12.94
Uttar Pradesh (West)	6.52
West Bengal	8.59
Total	132.03
