GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6101
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH APRIL, 2018

COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN WEST BENGAL

6101. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has any data regarding percentage of coverage of communication network in West Bengal;

(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 West Bengal?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   A communication network basically includes 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 in the Department service area wise and not district wise. The number of connections, teledensity (percentage of population covered) and the percentage share of West Bengal Service Area in total number of connections in India as on 31st January 2018 is as under:

Service Area	Number of connections (in Million)					Teledensity (in %)	Share in Total telephone connection in India (in %)
	Rural	Urban	Total	Wireline	Wireless		
West Bengal*	38.94	17.69	56.63	0.28	56.35	70.68	4.82
Kolkata	2.93	24.97	27.90	0.82	27.08	172.72	2.37
Total	41.87	42.66	84.53	1.10	83.43	87.80	7.19

* West Bengal service area includes the entire area falling within the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and area falling within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim and excludes the areas covered by Kolkata Metro Service Area.

(c)   USOF is funding the implementation of projects to provide mobile connectivity in remote and rural uncovered areas. A project to provide mobile service in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected areas of West Bengal is being implemented. Under Phase-I of this project 96 towers have been set up and are radiating. Under Phase-II a proposal to provide mobile services at 207 locations, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has been taken up for consideration.

In addition, under the flagship programme BharatNet, the Government plans to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, including West Bengal. As on 25-03-2018, a total of 2092 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in West Bengal have been connected, of which 2020 GPs have been made service ready.

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