

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1344  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**

**MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH EAST REGION**

1344. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is no proper mobile connectivity along the border in the North East and the rest of India and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether a joint survey was conducted by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Border Security Force (BSF) in the North East area of the country and if so, the details, the objectives and the outcomes thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the Indian forces posted at India Bangladesh border are using Bangladeshi SIM cards to connect with their family and friends and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the number of mobile towers installed and proposed to be installed on the International border areas of North East Region along with the time frame set in this regard, 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) In most of border areas in the North Eastern Region, there is no proper mobile connectivity as these areas are remote and inaccessible. Out of 5,98,004 inhabited villages in the country, 52,685 inhabited villages are uncovered with mobile services.
- (b) A joint survey was carried out by representatives of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Border Security Force (BSF) to deploy mobile services in border outposts for Central Armed Police Forces. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the same was prepared by BSNL and was forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (c) There is no such report regarding using of Bangladeshi SIM Cards by the Indian forces deployed on Indo-Bangladesh border.
- (d) There are 262 numbers of towers installed by BSNL along International border areas of North Eastern Region. State-wise details are at **Annexure-I**.

Further, the Government has approved a proposal to implement a 'Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region'. The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages in the North Eastern Region which includes border area villages too. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 8120.81 crores and would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The details are at **Annexure-II**.

**Annexure-I**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of Mobile Towers</b>
1	Meghalaya	36
2	Mizoram	06
3	Tripura	188
4	Arunachal Pradesh	0
5	Manipur	3
6	Nagaland	0
7	Sikkim	11
8	Assam	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>

## Annexure-II

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Number of villages to be covered</b>	<b>Number of towers</b>	<b>Cost (Rs. Crore)</b>
1	Mobile connectivity in Arunachal Pradesh and 02 districts of Assam (Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao)	4119	2817	2258.18
2	Mobile connectivity in other States of North East (except Meghalaya) and along National Highways (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim)	2128	2004	1655.66
3	Mobile connectivity in Meghalaya on 2G+4G Technology and along National Highway on 2G Technology	2374	2173	3911
4	Augmentation of optical fibre connectivity between State Capitals and District Headquarters			295.97
	<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>8120.81</b>

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