

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 196
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2018**

ESTIMATE ON MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS

196. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any estimate on mobile numbers in the country that have been subscribed but not in use and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any estimate on the number of people having more than two mobile connections and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the trend of mobile phone coverage in the country aggregated by States during the last three years, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) the villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government for expansion of mobile coverage in those villages along with the financial allocation made in this regard during each of the last three years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The data on mobile numbers in the country that have been subscribed but not in use is not maintained. However, the Telecom Service Providers furnish data relating to the number of active wireless subscribers on the date of peak VLR (Visitor Location Register) data. Out of the total wireless subscribers (1,189 million), 998.00 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of March, 2018. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 83.93% of the total wireless subscriber base. The dates of peak VLR for various TSPs are different in different service areas.
- (b) There is no estimate on the number of people having more than 2 mobile connections. However, the urban teledensity of wireless subscribers as on 31st March 2018 is 161.92%, which indicates that many subscribers have multiple connections.
- (c) The service area wise number of mobile telephone connections and mobile teledensity during the last three years is in **Annexure-I and II** respectively.

(d) There are 52685 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. The State/UT wise details are given at **Annexure -III**.

(e) The Government has planned to provide mobile coverage in inhabited and uncovered villages of the country in a phased manner. In **North Eastern Region (NER)**, the Government of India has taken following measures for expansion of mobile coverage:

- Under Comprehensive Telecom Development for NER, USOF has signed an agreement with BSNL, to install 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam with an estimated cost of Rs. 2258 Cr.
- Agreement has also been signed with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and National Highways in rest of NER (except Meghalaya) with an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 Cr.
- The Government has approved the proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G+4G technology for installation of 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya for an estimated cost of Rs. 3911 Cr.

With regard to **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** affected areas the following measures have been taken :

- **LWE Phase-I project:** Under this project, 2355 locations have been identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected areas, have been taken up for installation of towers. As of now, a total of 2335 mobile towers are radiating.
- **LWE Phase-II project:** A project has been approved by the Government for installation of 4072 towers, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for providing the mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages.

The financial allocation made for expansion of mobile coverage in uncovered villages of the country during the last three years under project of Left Wing Extremism(LWE) affected areas is as under:

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Rs. in Crore	617.05	280.68	710.9

Service area wise total mobile telephone connections :

Sr.No.	Service Area	Total mobile telephone connections (in million)		
		As on 31.03.2016	As on 31.03.2017	As on 31.03.2018
1	Andhra Pradesh	74.65	84.94	85.76
2	Assam	18.56	21.84	25.38
3	Bihar	74.51	84.61	88.65
4	Gujarat	62.27	71.84	71.93
5	Haryana	23.26	25.05	23.58
6	Himachal Pradesh	8.89	10.43	12.45
7	Jammu & Kashmir	9.82	11.91	13.72
8	Karnataka	61.34	69.14	67.00
9	Kerala	34.31	39.16	42.00
10	Madhya Pradesh	65.67	69.58	70.52
11	Maharashtra	84.10	93.90	94.61
12	North East	11.07	12.57	13.86
13	Odisha	29.06	34.29	34.37
14	Punjab	31.75	35.97	38.14
15	Rajasthan	60.09	67.36	65.24
16	Tamil Nadu	81.35	89.26	95.70
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	92.24	104.56	104.19
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	57.60	66.68	63.40
19	West Bengal	49.50	58.25	58.88
20	Kolkata	25.03	29.32	28.81
21	Delhi	47.24	53.35	54.26
22	Mumbai	31.80	36.58	36.52
	Total	1034.11	1170.59	1188.99

Service area wise mobile teledensity (in %) during the last three years:

Sr.No.	Service Area	Mobile teledensity (in %)		
		As on 31.03.2016	As on 31.03.2017	As on 31.03.2018
1	Andhra Pradesh	84.43	95.34	95.56
2	Assam	57.15	66.50	76.46
3	Bihar	54.11	60.76	62.96
4	Gujarat	97.85	111.60	110.50
5	Haryana	84.54	89.77	83.37
6	Himachal Pradesh	125.19	145.77	172.71
7	Jammu & Kashmir	78.96	94.84	108.28
8	Karnataka	98.27	109.83	105.55
9	Kerala	95.91	108.88	116.16
10	Madhya Pradesh	63.23	66.10	66.13
11	Maharashtra	85.05	94.00	93.78
12	North East	79.33	89.08	97.27
13	Odisha	68.37	80.06	79.64
14	Punjab	102.67	115.06	120.72
15	Rajasthan	82.29	91.02	87.03
16	Tamil Nadu	114.42	124.84	133.14
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)			
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	65.43	73.64	71.01
19	West Bengal	62.69	73.18	73.39
20	Kolkata	157.82	183.01	178.08
21	Delhi	221.43	243.08	240.35
22	Mumbai	136.55	153.96	150.67
	Total	81.41	91.11	91.51

Source: DoT

State-wise Status of Uncovered Villages

	Name of the State/UT	Number of Uncovered Villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh including Telangana	4,511
2.	Assam	2,885
3.	Bihar	2,283
4.	Jharkhand	4,882
5.	NCT of Delhi	0
6.	Gujarat	1,275
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	5
8.	Daman & Diu	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2,416
10.	Haryana	2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	460
12.	Karnataka	0
13.	Kerala	0
14.	Lakshadweep	1
15.	Maharashtra	4,710
16.	Goa	65
17.	Madhya Pradesh	5,896
18.	Chhattisgarh	3,372
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,886
20.	Manipur	610
21.	Meghalaya	2,389
22.	Mizoram	258
23.	Nagaland	137
24.	Tripura	2
25.	Odisha	10,060
26.	Punjab	91
27.	Rajasthan	770
28.	Tamil Nadu	113
29.	Puducherry	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	160
31.	Uttarakhand	1,876
32.	West Bengal	356
33.	Sikkim	23
34.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	190
	TOTAL	52,685
