

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST AUGUST, 2018**

INTERNET COVERAGE AND SPEED IN REMOTE VILLAGES

†2345. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of villages in the country including in Santhal Pargana of Jharkhand that are without internet connectivity State-wise and district-wise;
- (b) whether internet facility is not available in remote village of the country, including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether internet/broadband speed available in the villages is very low;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to resolve the aforementioned issues and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Internet can be accessed by the customers using wireline as well as wireless technologies. Wireless technologies inter-alia include 2G, 3G and 4G technology. 2G mobile network covers about 97% of population while 3G as well as 4G mobile networks covers atleast 88% of population of the Country. Further, state-wise list of total number of inhabited villages and number of uncovered villages by mobile telephone service is available and the same is enclosed as **Annexure**. There are total 1222 inhabited villages without mobile services in Jharkhand which includes 284 villages in Santhal Pargana.

As per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” report released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 27th June 2018 for the period January-March, 2018, there were total 145.82 million internet connections in the rural areas. Out of

these, 106.52 million are broadband and 39.30 million are narrowband internet connections.

Internet speed depends on various parameters such as technology deployed, network coverage, number of simultaneous users accessing the internet, connectivity to the website being accessed etc. The speed of mobile internet is further dependent on a number of factors such as distance from Base Transceiver Station (BTS) serving the customer, the number of simultaneous users being served by the BTS, the traffic handled by the BTS etc. As such, the mobile users may experience different speeds at different location and time of usage, irrespective of urban or rural areas.

Further, Government has allocated 965 MHz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum, which is, inter-alia, resulting into proliferation of 3G and 4G services in the Country.

The following schemes, targeted to be completed within 12 months after award of work, to provide telecom coverage in uncovered areas have also been approved:

- Meghalaya - 2173 locations
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands – 214 locations
- Left Wing Extremism areas Phase-II - 4072 locations.

BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology is being provided at all the GPs. At each GP, on an average five Access Points (APs) are to be provided (three APs for Government institutions and two APs for public places).

Further, the following schemes, funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), are under implementation for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in country:

- Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at its 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges.
- Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up by CSC-SPV at its 5,000 Gram Panchayats.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by RailTel at 200 rural Railway Stations.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at 200 Gram Panchayats.

**The list of villages without mobile services as on 27th July 2018
(Based on 2018 Survey):**

Sl. No.	State Name	No. of inhabited villages as per census 2011	No. of inhabited villages without mobile services
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	396	165
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16158	2745
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2215
4.	Assam	25372	915
5.	Bihar	39073	263
6.	Chandigarh	5	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	19567	3563
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65	0
9.	Daman & Diu	19	0
10.	Delhi	103	0
11.	Goa	320	47
12.	Gujarat	17843	1262
13.	Haryana	6642	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	211
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6337	328
16.	Jharkhand	29492	1222
17.	Karnataka	27397	869
18.	Kerala	1017	0
19.	Lakshadweep	6	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5558
21.	Maharashtra	40959	6117
22.	Manipur	2515	877
23.	Meghalaya	6459	2691
24.	Mizoram	704	314
25.	Nagaland	1400	328
26.	Odisha	47677	9940
27.	Punjab	12168	4
28.	Puducherry	90	0
29.	Rajasthan	43264	1402
30.	Sikkim	425	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	15049	83
32.	Telangana	10128	647
33.	Tripura	863	16
34.	Uttarakhand	15745	552
35.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	295
36.	West Bengal	37478	437
	TOTAL	5,97,618	43,088
