

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JANUARY, 2019**

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

*303. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes prepared by the Government for extension of telecommunication services in tribal and naxal affected areas of the country;
- (b) the target fixed and achieved by the Government with regard to extension of telecommunication services across the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated/spent 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) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *303 FOR 2ND JANUARY, 2019 ON “TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES”.

(a) to (c): Following schemes are being implemented by Government for providing telecom services in tribal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:

I. Mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:

(1) LWE Phase-I project: Government has set up 2343 mobile towers under LWE Phase-I project. Details are at **Annexure-I**

(2) LWE Phase-II project: Government has approved a project for providing mobile connectivity in the 4072 identified locations in Left wing Extremism affected areas on 23.05.2018. State-wise list is at **Annexure-II**.

II. BharatNet project: BharatNet project is being implemented to create broadband infrastructure for provision of connectivity to all 2.5 lakh (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including in tribal and naxal affected areas. As on 23.12.2018, a total of 1,16,590 GPs have been made Service Ready, and for the remaining GPs, the implementation is underway. State/ UT-wise details are at **Annexure-III**.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services is being provided at all the GPs in the country, including in tribal and naxal affected areas. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being provided at each GP. Of these, 3 APs will be connected to Government Institutions such as Police Stations, Schools, Hospitals, and Post Offices, while 2 APs will be available for public use. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,379 GPs and of these, services are being provided in 10,943 GPs.

III. Comprehensive Telecom Development Project for the North-Eastern Region (NER): Comprehensive Telecom Development Project for the North-Eastern Region (NER) to install 6673 mobile towers for 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers for National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER is being implemented. Details are at **Annexure-IV**.

IV. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands:

(i) Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(ii) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation for Andaman & Nicobar from 260 Mbps to 2 Gbps and augmentation of Intra Island OFC network in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(iii) Mobile connectivity in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to cover uncovered villages and seamless coverage on National Highway (NH 223).

(iv) Lakshadweep: Augmentation of Satellite bandwidth from 102 Mbps to 1.71 Gbps.

Rs. 19334 crore has been disbursed under BharatNet project for all States/UTs of the country. In addition, Rs. 2713.52 crore has been disbursed by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for three schemes, namely, mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region and Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands.

Details of Mobile Towers set up under LWE Phase-I

Sl. No.	State	No. of sites set up
1	Andhra Pradesh	62
2	Bihar	250
3	Chhattisgarh	525
4	Jharkhand	816
5	Maharashtra	65
6	Madhya Pradesh	22
7	Odisha	256
8	Telangana	173
9	Uttar Pradesh	78
10	West Bengal	96
	Total	2343

State wise list of mobile towers proposed to be installed in LWE Phase-II

S.No.	State	No. of Districts	No. of Mobile Towers
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	429
2	Bihar	8	412
3	Chhattisgarh	16	1028
4	Jharkhand	21	1054
5	Madhya Pradesh	1	26
6	Maharashtra	2	136
7	Odisha	18	483
8	Telangana	14	118
9	Uttar Pradesh	3	179
10	West Bengal	5	207
	Total	96	4072

State-wise details of service ready Gram Panchayats (GPs)

Sr. No	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
1	Andhra Pradesh	1227
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
4	Assam	1590
5	Bihar	5865
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	4052
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	17
10	Gujarat	5119
11	Haryana	6186
12	Himachal Pradesh	226
13	Jammu & Kashmir	263
14	Jharkhand	2320
15	Karnataka	6110
16	Kerala	1129
17	Madhya Pradesh	12691
18	Maharashtra	15126
19	Manipur	255
20	Meghalaya	122
21	Mizoram	23
22	Nagaland	86
23	Odisha	3501
24	Puducherry	101
25	Punjab	7911
26	Rajasthan	8452
27	Sikkim	14
28	Tamil Nadu	0
29	Telangana	2047
30	Tripura	527
31	Uttar Pradesh	27964
32	Uttarakhand	1508
33	West Bengal	2081
	Total	116590

Annexure-IV

State-wise list of mobile towers to be installed in the North Eastern Region

S.N.	State	No. of uncovered villages	No. of Tower Planned to be installed	No. of Towers planned to be installed along with National Highway
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	1893	149
2	Assam	2503	1874	33
3	Manipur	528	384	53
4	Meghalaya	2374	2162	11
5	Mizoram	252	227	19
6	Nagaland	134	112	48
7	Tripura	2	2	7
8	Sikkim	23	19	1
	Total	8621	6673	321
