

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH DECEMBER, 2018
4G BASED MOBILE PHONES**

†2428. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been sharp increase in the number of consumers using 4G based mobile phones since the launch of 4G services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of 4G based mobile phones during each of the last two years, State/UT wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that telecom operators are unable to maintain the internet speed commensurate with increase in the number of 4G consumers; and
- (d) whether the Government has directed the telecom operators to enhance their infrastructure in proportion to the number of consumers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Madam, the 4G Subscribers, License Service Area (LSA)-wise, for the period ending March 2017, March 2018, and September 2018 is enclosed as **Annexure**. The data exhibits sharp increase in the number of consumers using 4G services.
- (c) The speed of mobile internet is dependent on a number of factors such as the number of users being served and the traffic handled by the cell, closeness to the tower serving the customer, the user equipment/mobile handset used by the customer etc. As such, the 4G mobile users may experience different speeds at different locations and time of usage.
- (d) In order to enhance the infrastructure in proportion to the number of consumers following steps are taken by Government: -
 - i. Making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965MHz across the band 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands in 2016.
 - ii. Allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalization of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
 - iii. Permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilization efficiency.
 - iv. Permitting Internet Protocol based interconnections between TSPs in addition to prevailing arrangements.
 - v. Notification of Indian Telegraph Rights of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground Infrastructure (optical fiber) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
 - vi. Periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

Licensed Service Area wise 4G subscribers

S.No.	Licensed Service Area	4G Subscribers as on 31.03.2017	4G Subscribers as on 31.03.2018	4G Subscribers as on 30.09.2018
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11048663	22981379	30146852
2.	Assam	1651385	4833307	6935008
3.	Bihar	6329864	16057624	22825245
4.	Delhi	10693278	19246689	23336588
5.	Gujarat	9184243	20619753	26127547
6.	Haryana	3237470	4732449	9815793
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1171018	5318606	3312547
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1339607	3292087	4425031
9.	Karnataka	9445022	19624134	25245611
10.	Kerala	4530414	10170309	13418724
11.	Kolkata	4206719	8024130	10072166
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6848564	15285589	24449192
13.	Maharashtra	9354650	22917508	31026215
14.	Mumbai	7107062	14599321	17853881
15.	North East	1028919	2888465	4004033
16.	Odisha	2776568	6476190	9227475
17.	Punjab	5824486	12195737	15517656
18.	Rajasthan	6040847	14887957	23119550
19.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai	9889367	20746138	27424846
20.	UP – West	6227179	14232331	18707149
21.	UP – East	7499959	17997139	25069666
22.	West Bengal	3854128	10679645	15315088
	Total	129289412	287806487	387375863
