

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2475
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH DECEMBER, 2018**

MOBILE SERVICES

†2475. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of mobile connections in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and telcom operator-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the mobile services in rural, hilly and backward areas;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to make mobile phones available at cheaper rates in rural areas by bringing down their price and tariffs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to install a tower in Valmiki Nagar parliamentary constituency and if so, the details thereof including the time by which the said tower is likely to be installed 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) The service area-wise and telecom operator-wise details of mobile connections in the country during each of the last three years and current year are given at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.
- (b) Ensuring connectivity through mobile services in remote and rural areas remains a priority of the Government. Key projects are being implemented from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for this purpose.

The Department of Telecom executed a project for providing Mobile Services in 2,335 locations in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, which are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). As part of LWE Phase-2, Government has decided to install additional 4,072 mobile towers.

The Government has created a comprehensive telecommunication development plan for the entire North East Region for providing mobile connectivity in 8,621 villages. The Government is also strengthening significantly the connectivity with Andaman and Nicobar Islands by laying 2164.23 km of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable between Mainland (Chennai) and Port Blair and five other islands namely Car Nicobar, Little Andaman, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Department is also implementing the flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country through optimal mix of media like optical fibre cable (OFC), satellite and radio. Phase I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh GPs has been completed in December 2017. Phase II of the project is under implementation.

(c) The tariff for mobile telephony services is under forbearance except for National roaming services. Service providers have the flexibility to fix tariffs depending on input costs, level of competition and overall market condition. The average outgo for voice and data services in India have shown continuous downward trend, particularly in the recent past. From the regulatory perspective, there is no plan to revise the tariff for mobile services.

(d) BSNL has informed that one mobile tower is working in Valmiki Nagar town. One BTS is planned to be installed at Valmiki Nagar which is targeted to be completed in July 2019.

Annexure-I

Service area wise number of mobile telephone connections

(in millions)

Sr.No.	Service Area	As on 31.03.2016	As on 31.03.2017	As on 31.03.2018	As on 31.10.2018
1	Andhra Pradesh	74.65	84.94	85.76	86.76
2	Assam	18.56	21.84	25.38	21.67
3	Bihar	74.51	84.61	88.65	87.45
4	Gujarat	62.27	71.84	71.93	70.01
5	Haryana	23.26	25.05	23.58	27.47
6	Himachal Pradesh	8.89	10.43	12.45	10.41
7	Jammu & Kashmir	9.82	11.91	13.72	11.41
8	Karnataka	61.34	69.14	67.00	68.53
9	Kerala	34.31	39.16	42.00	43.45
10	Madhya Pradesh	65.67	69.58	70.52	91.02
11	Maharashtra	84.10	93.90	94.61	79.97
12	North East	11.07	12.57	13.86	11.80
13	Odisha	29.06	34.29	34.37	33.07
14	Punjab	31.75	35.97	38.14	39.23
15	Rajasthan	60.09	67.36	65.24	65.85
16	Tamil Nadu	81.35	89.26	95.70	82.37
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	92.24	104.56	104.19	106.61
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	57.60	66.68	63.40	59.46
19	West Bengal	49.50	58.25	58.88	58.38
20	Kolkata	25.03	29.32	28.81	26.92
21	Delhi	47.24	53.35	54.26	51.00
22	Mumbai	31.80	36.58	36.52	37.28
	Total	1034.11	1170.59	1188.99	1170.11

Source: DoT

Operator-wise number of mobile connections

(in millions)

Sr.No.	Telecom Service provider	31.03.2016	31.03.2017	31.03.2018	31.10.2018
1	Bharti Airtel Limited	251.24	273.65	304.19	341.66
2	Reliance	102.41	83.50	0.19	0.02
3	Reliance Jio	0.00	108.68	186.56	262.75
4	Vodafone	197.95	209.06	222.70	218.89
5	TATA	60.10	48.99	31.19	21.06
6	Idea	175.07	195.37	211.21	208.71
7	Aircel	87.09	90.90	78.92*	0.00
8	Quadrant Televentures	3.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Sistema	7.69	4.91	0.00	0.00
10	Telenor	52.45	50.49	37.98	0.00
11	Videocon	6.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	BSNL	86.82	101.40	112.48	113.53
13	MTNL	3.56	3.63	3.56	3.49
	Total	1034.11	1170.59	1188.99	1170.11

* Aircel data is of February, 2018

Source: DoT
