

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JANUARY, 2019**

INTERNET SERVICES IN REMOTE TRIBAL AREAS

†3467. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the public sector telecom operators are providing internet services in remote tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in providing internet/landline connections in such areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide quality services to the people of the above said areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing internet services using its wireline (xDSL, FTTH, Lease Lines) and wireless (Mobile, Wi-Max, Wi-Fi hotspots) services in rural tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra.

Under BharatNet project funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), out of 2.5 lakh (approx) Gram Panchayats (GPs) 1,16,590 GPs have been made service ready till date. 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, which includes remote tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra state. 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 10,943 GPs have been covered with Wi-Fi hotspots facility.

(e) BSNL is undertaking the following steps to provide quality services to the people of above areas;

Wireline Services;

1. Augmentation of Broadband Network equipments from time to time for increasing traffic carrying capacity and speed.
2. Monitoring of operational parameters on daily/ weekly/ monthly basis.
3. All broadband network equipments are monitored through centralized server on real time basis.
4. Daily monitoring of pending fault dockets.
5. Augmentation of speed of wireline broadband upto 10Mbps.
6. BSNL has setup large number of Wi-Fi Hot spots/ Access points on pan-India basis (except Delhi & Mumbai) including remote tribal areas for increasing its reach of broadband service. Till 30.11.2018 BSNL has installed approximately 27500 Wi-Fi Hotspots across 10333 locations in the country.
7. Rehabilitation of outdoor network.
8. Strengthening of the network by close monitoring and meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks of TRAI.

Wireless Services:

1. BSNL is augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage/ capacity.
2. In Phase VIII.4 of mobile expansion project presently under rollout, 68099 no. of (2G+3G+4G) BTSs are envisaged to be added in the network in both urban and rural areas which will further strengthen broadband penetration in India and already 36634 BTSs have been installed and commissioned as on 31.10.2018.
3. BSNL is optimizing its mobile network continuously for improved performance.
4. Regular surveys of the low signal areas and corrective measures as required.
5. Mechanism has been introduced in order to monitor day-to-day call drop status in BSNL and immediate remedial action is taken in case of any deviation.
