

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2019**

**MOBILE SERVICES IN VILLAGES**

**1867. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:  
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of villages in the country are not covered by mobile services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such villages, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken by the Government in this regard, especially in the State of Bihar;
- (c) the details of the mobile towers and telephone exchanges installed by the Government across the country to provide mobile and telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) the number of mobile towers and telephone exchanges presently working and likely to be installed in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2018, it was estimated that there are 43088 inhabited villages (as per the Census 2011) in the country which are not covered by mobile services. The details are at Annexure-I. The reasons for not having mobile services in these villages include, inter-alia, remote and tough terrain, areas diversely located with scattered population and commercially non-viable operations. Mobile coverage in such villages is being provided by the Government and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner. Following projects are being implemented by the Government for providing/ facilitating telecom services:

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism affected areas Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 3465 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity including 106 mobile towers in Bihar.

- (ii) Providing mobile connectivity in 361 villages of uncovered border areas, Ladakh and Kargil Region and other priority areas including 11 uncovered villages in Bihar.
- (iii) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages, along with National Highways and to strengthen transmission network
- (iv) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (v) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation upto 4 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (vi) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (vii) Augmentation of Satellite bandwidth from 318 Mbps to 1.71 Gbps for Lakshadweep Islands
- (viii) Under BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx 2.5 lakh) in the country.

(c) The details are at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) The details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the License Service Areas (LSAs) are at Annexure-III. Planning for installation of mobile towers and telephone exchanges by any Telecom Service Provider (TSP) is an ongoing process and depends on various factors like commercial viability, subscriber concentration, technology to be adopted etc.

**List of villages without mobile services**

(As per the data collected from the telecom service providers in year 2018)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of inhabited villages without mobile services</b>
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	165
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2745
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2215
4.	Assam	915
5.	Bihar	263
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	3563
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0
10.	NCT of Delhi	0
11.	Goa	47
12.	Gujarat	1262
13.	Haryana	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	211
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	328
16.	Jharkhand	1222
17.	Karnataka	869
18.	Kerala	0
19.	Lakshadweep	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5558
21.	Maharashtra	6117
22.	Manipur	877
23.	Meghalaya	2691
24.	Mizoram	314
25.	Nagaland	328
26.	Odisha	9940
27.	Punjab	4
28.	Puducherry	0
29.	Rajasthan	1402
30.	Sikkim	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	83
32.	Telangana	647
33.	Tripura	16
34.	Uttarakhand	552
35.	Uttar Pradesh	295
36.	West Bengal	437
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,088</b>

**ANNEXURE-II**

**State-wise list of towers installed in last three years and current year**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of towers installed during last three years and current year</b>
<b>A. Under the LWE affected areas Project Phase-I</b>		
1	Bihar	66
2	Jharkhand	284
3	Odisha	118
4	West Bengal	18
5	Chhattisgarh	40
6	Maharashtra	9
7	Andhra Pradesh	23
8	Telangana	119
<b>B. Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region</b>		
9	Arunachal Pradesh	23
10	Assam	190
11	Manipur	46
12	Mizoram	34
13	Nagaland	35
14	Sikkim	1
15	Tripura	1
<b>C. In Lakshadweep islands</b>		
16	Lakshadweep	10

**ANNEXURE-III**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of License Service Area (LSA)</b>	<b>No. of Mobile Towers of all Telecom Service Providers (As on 25.06.2019)</b>	<b>No of Telephone Exchanges (As on 31.03.2019)</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	43393	2806
2	Assam	12722	554
3	Bihar	39556	1592
4	Delhi	26559	377
5	Gujarat	33345	2291
6	Himachal Pradesh	6786	670
7	Haryana	12780	964
8	Jammu & Kashmir	9525	300
9	Karnataka	36023	2766
10	Kerala	17411	1398
11	Kolkata	13020	467
12	Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai and including Goa)	42593	40484
13	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	41416	2865
14	Mumbai	16480	291
15	North-East	8157	389
16	Odisha	17880	1080
17	Punjab	20170	1426
18	Rajasthan	30233	1939
19	Tamil Nadu (including Poducherry)	43091	2324
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	33760	2103
21	Uttar Pradesh (West) (including Uttrakhand)	29091	1377
22	West Bengal (Excluding Kolkata including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	22392	1375
	<b>Total</b>	<b>556383</b>	<b>33438</b>

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