

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2854  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**TELECOM LINKAGES IN DIARA REGION OF BIHAR**

†2854. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to link the villages of Bihar including Diara region with internet and mobile network; and
- (b) the number of villages of Diara region of Bihar linked with internet and mobile network during each of the last three years and the amount of fund spent by the Government during the said period in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity at all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country including Bihar.

In Bihar, including Diara region, BharatNet Phase-I has been implemented through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented through Private Sector Model by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

As on 27.06.2019, by laying 19,793 km optical fibre cable (OFC), a total of 6208 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready for broadband connectivity in Bihar and the remaining GPs are under implementation.

Provision of mobile connectivity at 2355 tower locations, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas (LWE Phase-I), has been implemented through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Scheme. Out of these, 250 towers have been installed in Bihar.

Under LWE Phase-II project under USOF, mobile connectivity by using 2G + 4G technology is to be provided in inhabited and uncovered villages at 3465 tower locations (identified by MHA, in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas in 10 States). Out of these, 106 towers locations have been identified in Bihar for providing mobile connectivity under this project.

Further, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country including Bihar Licensed Service Area. During this auction, the spectrum as detailed below has been allocated in Bihar Licensed Service Area:

Spectrum Band	Quantum of Spectrum Allocated
1800 MHz	11.8 MHz (Paired)
2100 MHz	10 MHz (Paired)
2300 MHz	20 MHz
2500 MHz	10 MHz

In order to enhance the mobile and internet penetration, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers in rural as well as urban areas.

(b) The approximate number of villages of Diara region of Bihar linked with internet and mobile network by major telecom operators during each of the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Telecom Service Provider			
	BSNL	Bharti Airtel	Vodafone Idea Ltd.	Reliance Jio
2016-17	NIL	10	68	2349
2017-18	NIL	36	0	3494
2018-19	20	37	3	2283

The details of funds spent by Government in the Diara Region of Bihar are not available separately. However, amount of funds disbursed by the Government in Bihar during the last three years is as under:

(i) Amount disbursed from USOF under LWE project:

Financial Year			(Amount in Rupees Crore)
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
29.8	53.91	63.04	

(ii) Amount disbursed for BharatNet by BBNL is enclosed as **Annexure**.

**Annexure referred to in Reply of Part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2854 to be answered on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Ram Kripal Yadav regarding Telecom Linkages in Diara Region of Bihar**

Detail of funds disbursed for BharatNet by BBNL* (In Rupees Crore Approx.)				
S. No.	State	Financial Year		
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Bihar	190.09	22.53	48.37
* *GPON & OFC		555.44	258.41	
<p>Note*: Funds have been disbursed to three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely BSNL, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) and RailTel for Phase-I and to CPSUs and State Governments for Phase-II implementation of BharatNet Project. Reconciliation of Data regarding Utilization of funds by CPSUs/ State Governments is underway.</p>				
<p>Note:** The Payment has been made to 3 CPSUs for decentralized procurements. State wise data is not available as the payment has been released on lumpsum basis. The state wise reconciliation is being done.</p>				

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