GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2019

BSNL NETWORK IN ASSAM

†5227. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the BSNL networks in Assam is very poor, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b)   whether the mobile network connectivity at India, Bhutan and Bangladesh border remains poor thereby compelling the people residing there to use the network available in the neighbouring countries and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c)   whether tourists visiting Manas National Park face difficulty in terms of mobile and landline connectivity, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d)   the names of places in Assam where new mobile tower is proposed to be set up by the Government and the details of the plans to increase the internet speed in the said region?

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

(a) & (b)   Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of telecom service providers including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) against the benchmark for various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters laid down by TRAI by way of QoS regulations issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs).

As per PMR issued by TRAI for the quarter ending March 2019, BSNL is meeting all the benchmarks for Basic (Wireline) and Broadband Services throughout the country including Assam. For Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, BSNL is meeting the benchmark for all the parameters in all of its Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) including Assam except for the parameter of call drops in West Bengal Service area only.

(c)   BSNL has reported that its mobile network is available in the area of Manas National Park where Government offices, hotels and resorts are situated. However, the network is poor inside the forest area. At present there is no basic wireline (landline) service available as it is not commercially viable.

(d)   Department of Telecommunications is working on Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region including Assam State for provision of mobile services and internet in uncovered villages. The details are at Annexure. BharatNet project is also being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all 2648 Gram Panchayats of Assam State. As on 04.07.2019, by laying 4815 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 1622 GPs in Assam have been connected and have been made Service Ready.

As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is being provided at all the GPs in the country including Assam. Further, the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on 13.06.2019 has approved to award the work of provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) in each of the remaining GPs of BharatNet Phase-I in all the States including Assam. Further, 955 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections have also been provided in Assam.

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5227 for Answer on 24.07.2019.

S.No.	District	No. of Uncovered Villages
	No. of uncovered villages to be covered in Assam	
1	Dima Hasao	375
2	Karvi Anglong	939
3	Baksa	24
4	Barpeta	25
5	Bongaigaon	20
6	Cachar	61
7	Chirang	45
8	Darrang	33
9	Demaji	149
10	Dhubri	49
11	Dibrugarh	17
12	Goal Para	44
13	Golaghat	72
14	Hailakandi	23
15	Jorahat	40
16	Kamrup	101
17	Kamrup Metro Politan	9
18	Karimganj	28
19	Kokrajhar	111
20	Lakhimpur	84
21	Morigaon	28
22	Nagaon	19
23	Nalbari	33
24	Shivsagar	4
25	Sonitpur	63
26	Tinsukiya	67
27	Udalguri	40
	Total	**2503**

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