

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2506
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2022**

BSNL IN RURAL AREAS

**†2506. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the communication facilities of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has improved in rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the efforts being made by the Government to promote BSNL in these rural areas;
- (b) whether any new scheme is proposed to increase the connectivity potential of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in urban areas;
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government for the revival of BSNL and MTNL;
- (d) whether any step have been taken by the Government to promote the services of BSNL in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be available in the tribal areas in future?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) The communication facilities of BSNL are constantly improving in the rural areas. BSNL is providing FTTH (Fiber to the Home) high speed broadband connections in rural areas through Optical Fiber Cable. In addition, BSNL is also providing mobile coverage in rural areas. The state-wise details of current rural BSNL FTTH connections and number of villages covered with BSNL's cellular services are given in **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

Further to strengthen the broadband core network and enhance the internet speed, BSNL has planned replacement and expansion of High Capacity Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) and Regional Point of Presences (RPOP). BSNL is also constantly entering into peering & caching with various content providers in BSNL Network. Further BSNL will provide all telecom services in Delhi and Mumbai through leasing of operational assets or other appropriate models.

(c) The Government of India, on 23.10.2019, approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL. It inter-alia approved the reduction in employee costs through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services through capital infusion, monetization of core and non-core assets and in-principle approval of merger of BSNL and MTNL. As a result of these, BSNL became operationally profitable in Financial Year 2020-21 and has remained so since then.

Further, to transform BSNL into a viable Public Sector Undertaking, the Government on 27.07.2022, approved a revival package for BSNL amounting to Rs 1.64 lakhs crores. The revival measures approved by the Cabinet focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL. With the implementation of these measures, BSNL is expected to turn-around and become a profit earning entity.

(d) & (e) Optical Fiber Connectivity under BharatNet scheme of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been provided to over 18,000 Gram Panchayats of Madhya Pradesh including 73 Gram Panchayats in tribal areas. BSNL is also working with State Government to provide 1,62,000 FTTH broadband connections in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh using the BharatNet.

The Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 approved an USOF funded project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas including about 4,000 villages in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh. The project is being executed by BSNL using Indigenous 4G technology stack and the target for completion of project is December, 2023.

Annexure to the part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2506 for answer on 21.12.2022.

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Rural BSNL FTTH connections
1	Andhra Pradesh	81,459
2	Arunachal Pradesh	196
3	Assam	10,380
4	Bihar	13,422
5	Chattisgarh	6,580
6	Goa	7,488
7	Gujarat	17,515
8	Haryana	44,090
9	Himachal Pradesh	25,902
10	Jharkhand	7,719
11	Karnataka	42,880
12	Kerala	2,90,660
13	Madhya Pradesh	13,380
14	Maharashtra incl. Mumbai	45,982
15	Manipur	1,099
16	Meghalaya	880
17	Mizoram	1
18	Nagaland	121
19	Odisha	22,356
20	Punjab	73,135
21	Rajasthan	32,641
22	Sikkim	128
23	Tamil Nadu incl. Chennai	1,04,262
24	Telangana	29,949
25	Tripura	3,552
26	Uttar Pradesh (UPE+UPW)	15,633
27	Uttarakhand	6,522
28	West Bengal incl. Kolkata	14,570
		Union Territories
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12387
2	Chandigarh	2025
3	Dadar & Nagar Haweli (incl. Daman & Diu)	1112
4	Delhi	0
5	Jammu & Kashmir	8712
6	Ladakh	238
7	Lakshdweep	0
8	Puduchery	5829
Total		9,42,805

Annexure-II

Annexure to the part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no 2506 for answer on 21.12.2022.

Sl. No.	Circle	No. of Villages covered with BSNL's cellular services as on 31.10.2022
1	Haryana	4,447
2	Himachal Pradesh	17,253
3	Jammu & Kashmir	4,489
4	Punjab	12,087
5	Rajasthan	26,427
6	Uttaranchal	13,193
7	Uttar Pradesh(East)	73,652
8	Uttar Pradesh(West)	14,766
9	Andaman & Nicobar	372
10	Assam	20,772
11	Bihar	29,064
12	Kolkata (TD)	727
13	Jharkhand	19,673
14	North East I	2,089
15	North East II	4,435
16	Odisha	26,018
17	Sikkim	207
18	West Bengal	27,535
19	Chhattisgarh	13,968
20	Gujarat	14,520
21	Maharashtra	28,705
22	Madhya Pradesh	24,394
23	Andhra Pradesh	13,663
24	Chennai (TD)	1,635
25	Kerala	1,036
26	Karnataka	18,285
27	Telangana	9,322
28	Tamilnadu	12,162
Grand total		4,34,896
