

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 321  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**MOBILE TOWERS**

**†\*321. SHRI GANESH SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile towers are not available in the remote villages of Madhya Pradesh so far including Satna district and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the efforts made/being made by the Government for having mobile towers installed in remote areas of the State;
- (c) the time frame by which the vision of revolution in communication is likely to be fulfilled in remote villages and the efforts made by the Government in this regard so far; and
- (d) whether any policy framework has been prepared by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*321 FOR 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019 ON “MOBILE TOWERS”.**

(a) to (d) As per the data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that out of 51,929 inhabited villages (as per the Census 2011) in the State of Madhya Pradesh, there are 48,959 inhabited villages covered by mobile services and out of 1,799 inhabited villages in Satna district, 1,767 inhabited villages are covered by mobile services.

The National Digital Communications Policy 2018 (NDCP-2018) has been notified on 22.10.2018 with a vision to support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society and to fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises through the establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure, accessible and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services by year 2022. The NDCP-2018, inter-alia, aims to accomplish connectivity to all uncovered areas by the year 2022.

Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages in the country is being provided by the Government and the TSPs in a phased manner. The following projects are approved/implemented by the Government in rural and remote areas of the country, including the state of Madhya Pradesh:

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2,355 towers in the country including 22 towers in Madhya Pradesh, have been installed;
- (ii) Under LWE Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 2,217 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity in the country including 23 mobile towers in Madhya Pradesh;
- (iii) To provide mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas, Ladakh and Kargil Region and other priority areas including one uncovered village in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (iv) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and alongwith National Highways and to augment transmission network;
- (v) Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country;
- (vi) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (vii) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (viii) Mobile connectivity has been enhanced in Lakshadweep Islands by installing 10 mobile towers;
- (ix) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 4 Gbps and 1.71 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands respectively.

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