

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1471
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

TELECOM FACILITY IN MARATHWADA REGION

†1471. SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether telecommunication system in Marathwada region in Maharashtra is operating smoothly and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the decrease in the number of BSNL customers in the aforesaid region during the last three years along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is shortage of telecommunication towers across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the benchmark for various Quality of Service parameters laid down by TRAI by way of Quality of Service regulations issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) submitted by service providers for the service area as a whole.

As per PMR for the quarter ending September 2019, for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, all the service providers are largely complying with benchmarks for all the parameters in Maharashtra Service area except for the parameter “Percentage of calls answered by the operators (voice to voice) within 90 seconds (benchmark \geq 95%)” not met by M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.

Total number of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) working in Marathwada region on 21.11.2019 are 27,492 (Airtel- 4117 Nos., BSNL-2155 Nos., RJIO -11278 Nos., TTML – 38 Nos. and VIL - 9904 Nos.) As reported by field units, telecommunication systems in Marathwada region in Maharashtra is operating smoothly.

- (b) The decrease in number of landline customers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited (BSNL) in the aforesaid region during the last 3 years is due to high penetration of mobile service over landline. Details of landline connections and mobile connections of BSNL in Marathwada region during the last 3 years are given in **Annexure-I**.

- (c) Mobile towers and BTS are installed by Telecom Service Providers/ Infrastructure Providers (TSPs)/IPs to improve coverage and/or capacity of their networks based on their techno-commercial requirements on continuous basis. The Government has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/ liberalisation of spectrum, permitting passive & active infrastructure sharing, notification of Right of Way Rules 2016, making available government land/buildings for installations of towers etc. Around 15.53 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs during the period from April 2014 (6.49 lakh BTS) to 14th November 2019 (22.03 lakh BTS) . Further, about 1.64 lakh mobile towers have been added during the period from Dec’ 2015 (4.15 lakh) to 14th November 2019 (5.79 lakh mobile towers) across the country.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of para (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1471 to be answered on 27th November, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament Shri Sanjay Jadhav regarding "Telecom Facility In Marathwada Region"

S.No.	Number of BSNL subscribers in Marathwada region in Maharashtra	March'17	March'18	March'19
1	Number of landline subscribers	1,18,954	1,02,905	86,851
2	Number of mobile subscribers	11,21,433	12,00,883	11,62,027
