GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1554
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2019

RURAL AND URBAN TELE-DENSITY

†1554. SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural tele-density is abysmally low in comparison to the urban tele-density in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the rural tele-density and the urban tele-density separately during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the overall tele-density in the country is very low in comparison to the international level;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the disparity between the rural and urban tele-density in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The rural and urban tele-density i.e. the number of telephone connections per 100 inhabitants, during the last three years and current year are given in **Annexure-I**.

The Urban teledensity is higher than the rural teledensity due to easier access to telecom infrastructure in urban areas.

(c) & (d) The fixed teledensity and mobile teledesity in India as compared to the international level is given in **Annexure-II**.

(e) To remove disparity between rural and urban tele-density and boost telecom infrastructure in rural areas, the Government is implementing flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country by using optimal mix of media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio, satellite etc. As on 07-11-2019 a total of 3,80,988 kms of OFC has been laid and 1,28,376 GPs have been made Service Ready which include 983 GPs connected through satellite.

The Government has also significantly ramped up telecom infrastructure in remote and rural areas including the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. Under Phase-I, 2343 mobile towers are radiating in 96 LWE districts. Under Phase-II of this project a provision has been made to install 2217 mobile towers.

The Government has drawn up a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region (NER) to install 6673 mobile towers at 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers along National Highways, and strengthening of transmission network in the NER to provide mobile coverage in villages. As of 31-10-2019, a total of 946 towers have been installed, out of which 777 towers are radiating.

The Government has also approved a plan to install towers for providing mobile coverage in 354 uncovered villages in Ladakh and Kargil area.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no 1554 to be answered on 27th November 2019 regarding Rural and Urban Tele-density

Teledensity (in percentage)

As on	Rural Areas	Urban Areas
31.03.2017	56.98	171.52
31.03.2018	59.25	166.64
31.03.2019	57.50	159.66
31.08.2019	56.97	161.25

Sources: DoT

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no 1554 to be answered on 27th November 2019 regarding Rural and Urban Tele-density

Fixed-telephone teledensity in percentage (as on December 2018)	
Developed countries	35.6
Developing countries	7.4
World	12.1
LDCs (Least Developed Countries)	0.8
India	1.7

Mobile-cellular telephone teledensity in percentage (as on December 2018)	
Developed countries	128.9
Developing countries	103.8
World	108.0
LDCs (Least Developed Countries)	74.9
India	89.8

Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-/Statistics/Pages/definitions/regions.aspx

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