

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2589
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2019**

TELECOM CONNECTIVITY IN TELANGANA

2589. SHRI B.B.PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to accelerate telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether any such areas have been identified by the Government in the State of Telangana and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any time-frame has been chalked out by the Government for this purpose and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) To accelerate telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas across the country, following projects are approved by the Government:
- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2,355 towers at a cost of Rs.3,591.22 crore have been installed by Government of India. Under LWE Phase-II project, installation of 2,217 mobile towers at an estimated cost of Rs.2,194.83 crore has been approved for providing mobile connectivity covering the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;
 - (ii) Mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 384.01 crore has also been approved;
 - (iii) 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;
 - (iv) Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country at an estimated cost of Rs.42,068 crore;

- (v) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (vi) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (vii) Mobile connectivity has been enhanced in Lakshadweep Islands by installing 10 mobile towers;
- (viii) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 4 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (ix) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 1.71 Gbps for Lakshadweep Islands.

(c) & (d) As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that out of 10,128 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) in the State of Telangana, there are 110 villages which are not covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in these uncovered villages is being provided in a phased manner including connectivity to Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project. Under Left Wing Extremism affected areas Phase-II project, tender for installation of towers at 53 locations has been floated for providing mobile coverage.
