

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2020**

TELECOM SERVICES IN TRIBAL AND LWE AFFECTED AREAS

†*242. SHRI SANTOSH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for expansion of telecom services in tribal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of the country;
- (b) the targets fixed and achieved by the Government with regard to the expansion of telecom services across the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated/released/utilized by the Government in this regard during the last three years and the current year so far?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) 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 (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *242 FOR 11TH MARCH, 2020 REGARDING “TELECOM SERVICES IN TRIBAL AND LWE AFFECTED AREAS”.

(a) & (b) The schemes, formulated by the Government for expansion of telecom services in Tribal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of the country along with target fixed and achieved by the Government are as below:

(1) PROVISION OF MOBILE SERVICES IN LEFT WING EXTREMISM (LWE) AFFECTED AREAS:

(i) LWE PHASE-I:

Mobile connectivity at 2343 tower locations, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas (LWE Phase-I), has been implemented through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, and the project has been completed. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.

(ii) LWE PHASE-II:

Provision of mobile connectivity by using 2G+4G technology at 2217 tower locations, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas (LWE Phase-II), has been approved. The implementation period of the project is 18 months from the date of signing of contract with the implementing agency. The tender is under process. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-II**.

(2) 354 UNCOVERED VILLAGES SCHEME:

A Scheme has been approved for providing mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh and other priority areas. The implementation period of the project is 9 months from the date of signing of the contract with the implementing agency. The Letter of Intent (LoI) has been issued to the successful bidder. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-III**.

(3) MOBILE CONNECTIVITY TO COVER UNCOVERED VILLAGES AND ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY (NH 223) IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS:

A scheme has been provisioned to provide mobile connectivity to 85 uncovered villages and along NH-223 in Andaman & Nicobar Island. The implementation period of the project is 12 months from the date of signing of contract with the implementing agency. The tender is under process.

(4) COMPREHENSIVE TELECOM DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS:

The project for Augmentation of 2G Mobile Coverage with EDGE Technology in Lakshadweep Islands is completed in May 2018.

(5) COMPREHENSIVE TELECOM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CTDP) FOR THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION (NER):

(i) As part of the CTDP for the NER, Mobile Services are being provided in the uncovered villages in NER and along National Highway for seamless coverage in NER [in Assam except 2 Districts, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal

Pradesh (NH only)] by setting up 2004 towers. As of February 2020, 1269 towers have been installed, out of which 1153 sites are providing services. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-IV**.

- (ii) A Scheme has been approved for providing mobile connectivity in 1164 uncovered villages and along National Highways of Meghalaya. The Tender is under process.

(6) BHARATNET:

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country including telecom services in tribal and LWE affected areas.

As on 28.02.2020, a total of 1,36,693 Gram Panchayats have been made Service Ready. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-V**. The project is targeted to be completed by August 2021.

- (c) The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized during last three years and the current year so far are as follows:

S.N.	Scheme	Funds allocated/ released & utilized (in Rs. Crore)			
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.	LWE Phase-I	280.70	710.89	414.30	346.27
2.	CTDP for NER	-	-	-	284.98

BharatNet Scheme:		
Year	Funds Allocated/ disbursed (Rs. Crore)	Funds utilized (Rs. Crore)
2016-17	5600	4263.40
2017-18	6000	1906.19
2018-19	4145	2347.61
2019-20	1657.74	3791.37
TOTAL	17402.74	12308.57

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in Parts (a)&(b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *242 for answer on 11.03.2020.

STATUS OF LWE-I

S. No.	State	Number of Towers Radiating
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62
2.	Bihar	250
3.	Chhattisgarh	525
4.	Jharkhand	816
5.	Maharashtra	65
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22
7.	Odisha	256
8.	Telangana	173
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78
10.	West Bengal	96
	Total	2343

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in Parts (a)&(b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *242 for answer on 11.03.2020.

STATE WISE NUMBER OF TOWERS IN LWE-II PROJECT

S No.	State	No. of Mobile Towers
1	Andhra Pradesh	346
2	Bihar	16
3	Chhattisgarh	971
4	Jharkhand	450
5	Madhya Pradesh	23
6	Maharashtra	125
7	Odisha	158
8	Telangana	53
9	Uttar Pradesh	42
10	West Bengal	33
Total		2217

ANNEXURE-III

Annexure referred to in Parts (a)&(b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *242 for answer on 11.03.2020.

STATE WISE NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN THE SCHEME OF
354 UNCOVERED VILLAGES

S. No	State Name	Total no. of villages
1.	Bihar	8
2.	Gujarat	70
3.	Himachal Pradesh	59
4.	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	144
5.	Karnataka	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1
7.	Rajasthan	31
8.	Uttar Pradesh	9
9.	Uttarakhand	28
10.	West Bengal	1
	TOTAL	354

ANNEXURE-IV

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *242 for answer on 11.03.2020.

STATE WISE NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN THE CTDp- NER

S. No.	Bidding Unit	No. of BTSs(as per Agreement)	Tower installed	Towers radiating
		Total	Total	Total
1	Assam	983	430	426
2	Sikkim	20	6	6
3	Manipur	437	354	290
4	Mizoram	246	204	178
5	Nagaland	160	143	136
6	Tripura	9	3	3
7	Arunachal Pradesh	149	129	114
	Total	2004	1269	1153

ANNEXURE-V

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *242 for answer on 11.03.2020.

STATE WISE NUMBER OF GRAM PANCHAYATS IN THE BHARATNET

Sl. No	States	Total GPs*	Service Ready GPs*
1.	Assam	2979	1622
2.	Bihar	8963	8355
3.	Chhattisgarh	10181	4819
4.	Haryana	6204	6188
5.	Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh	4799	1027
6.	Karnataka	6252	6244
7.	Kerala	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	23728	13059
9.	Maharashtra	28260	15670
10.	Punjab	12940	12560
11.	Rajasthan	10151	8751
12.	Uttarakhand	7706	1529
13.	Uttar Pradesh	56244	29120
14.	West Bengal	3708	2298
15.	Sikkim	207	18
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	71	8
17.	Chandigarh	13	13
18.	Lakshadweep	10	0
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1864	297
20.	Nagaland	1042	129
21.	Manipur	2799	754
22.	Mizoram	776	165
23.	Tripura	1062	688
24.	Meghalaya	1814	206
25.	Gujarat	14311	11333
26.	Daman & Diu	18	18
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21	21
28.	Puducherry	101	101
29.	Andhra Pradesh	13533	1638
30.	Telangana	13421	2047
31.	Odisha	7095	4088
32.	Jharkhand	4653	2517
33.	Himachal Pradesh	3269	281
34.	Tamil Nadu	12909	0
TOTAL		262233	136693

- Including BHQ
