

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2266
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2020**

CONSUMERS OF BSNL AND MTNL

†2266. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the consumers of mobile phones in rural and urban areas of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) separately as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to enable these companies to compete with their private counterparts;
- (c) whether some areas in the country do not have telephone and mobile services;
- (d) if so, the details of such areas and the action taken by the Government to provide telephone and mobile connectivity in the said areas; and
- (e) the funds earmarked and spent for providing telecommunication facilities in the said areas and the role played/likely to be played by the private companies in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) Circle/Licensed Service Area wise detail of consumers of mobile phones in rural and urban areas of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) separately as on date is at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The Cabinet in the meeting held on 23.10.2019 approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL. The revival plan inter-alia, includes the measures to reduce the Staff cost through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the employees of age 50 years and above, administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL and MTNL for providing 4G services, monetisation of assets of BSNL/MTNL, debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds and in-principle approval for merger of BSNL & MTNL. With implementation of these revival measure, it is expected that BSNL and MTNL will become competitive and start earning profits in coming years.

(c) to (e) As on 31.12.2019, it is estimated that 27,721 villages (as per census 2011) in the country are not covered by mobile services. State/Union Territories-wise list of uncovered villages is at **Annexure-II**.

Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages in the country is being provided by the Government and TSPs in a phased manner.

Further, following schemes funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund are in progress to provide mobile coverage in the uncovered villages in the country:

- **Provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** Under phase-I of the project, as on date out of 2355 identified locations, 2343 mobile towers are radiating. Under phase-II of the project, 2217 tower locations have been identified with an estimated cost of Rs.3215 crore (excluding taxes) to provide mobile connectivity in the LWE affected areas in 10 states.
- **354 Uncovered Villages Scheme:** To provide mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas, Ladakh and Kargil region and other priority areas.
- **Aspirational District scheme:** A scheme for provisioning of 4G based mobile service in 502 uncovered villages of aspirational districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with an estimated cost of Rs.687 crore has been approved by Digital Communication Commission (DCC) on 20.12.2019.

Annexure referred to in Part-(a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2266 for Answer on 04.03.2020.

Circle/Licensed Service Area-wise details of subscribers of BSNL and MTNL.

S. No.	Circle/ Licensed Service Area	Mobile consumers as on 31.12.2019		
		In Rural Area	In Urban Area	Total
<u>BSNL</u>				
1	Andaman & Nicobar	89,671	1,34,506	2,24,177
2	Andhra Pradesh	36,88,713	30,98,042	67,86,755
3	Assam	9,87,102	17,56,210	27,43,312
4	Bihar	14,59,629	23,66,781	38,26,410
5	Chhattisgarh	7,63,221	13,69,928	21,33,149
6	Gujarat	21,29,746	39,55,262	60,85,008
7	Haryana	5,53,828	44,02,408	49,56,236
8	Himachal Pradesh	20,61,601	8,95,394	29,56,995
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1,20,494	11,44,494	12,64,988
10	Jharkhand	4,16,448	10,67,470	14,83,918
11	Karnataka	20,02,710	53,21,738	73,24,448
12	Kerala	45,91,632	63,45,122	1,09,36,754
13	Madhya Pradesh	14,63,773	27,18,433	41,82,206
14	Maharashtra	26,95,251	43,94,218	70,89,469
15	North East-I	89,388	8,58,133	9,47,521
16	North East-II	1,55,778	3,63,483	5,19,261
17	Odisha	30,11,931	30,11,817	60,23,748
18	Punjab	5,66,802	51,56,671	57,23,473
19	Rajasthan	21,17,203	40,25,259	61,42,462
20	Tamil Nadu	5,64,621	94,59,415	1,00,24,036
21	Telangana	17,00,186	14,27,662	31,27,848
22	Uttarakhand	6,07,513	9,11,273	15,18,786
23	Uttar Pradesh (East)	33,32,304	83,21,817	1,16,54,121
24	Uttar Pradesh (West)	10,25,921	33,97,182	44,23,103
25	West Bengal	9,53,397	9,05,079	18,58,476
26	Kolkata TD	0	18,56,511	18,56,511
27	Chennai	2,82,026	20,64,388	23,46,414
	Total (BSNL)	3,74,30,889	8,07,28,696	11,81,59,585
<u>MTNL</u>				
1	Delhi	0	21,84,561	21,84,561
2	Mumbai	0	11,86,107	11,86,107
	Total (MTNL)	0	33,70,668	33,70,668

Annexure referred to in Part-(c) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2266 for Answer on 04.03.2020.

State/ UT wise list of villages regarding coverage of mobile services

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of inhabited villages	No. of inhabited villages covered with mobile services	No. of inhabited villages without mobile services
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	396	239	157
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16158	14063	2095
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	3454	1804
4.	Assam	25372	24162	1210
5.	Bihar	39073	38807	266
6.	Chandigarh	5	5	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	19567	17317	2250
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65	65	0
9.	Daman & Diu	19	19	0
10.	NCT of Delhi	103	103	0
11.	Goa	320	297	23
12.	Gujarat	17843	17152	691
13.	Haryana	6642	6641	1
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	17716	166
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6337	6137	200
16.	Jharkhand	29492	28239	1253
17.	Karnataka	27397	26834	563
18.	Kerala	1017	1017	0
19.	Lakshadweep	6	5	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	48959	2970
21.	Maharashtra	40959	37970	2989
22.	Manipur	2515	1727	788
23.	Meghalaya	6459	4861	1598
24.	Mizoram	704	434	270
25.	Nagaland	1400	1131	269
26.	Odisha	47677	41128	6549
27.	Punjab	12168	12168	0
28.	Puducherry	90	90	0
29.	Rajasthan	43264	42494	770
30.	Sikkim	425	414	11
31.	Tamil Nadu	15049	15021	28
32.	Telangana	10128	10018	110
33.	Tripura	863	855	8
34.	Uttarakhand	15745	15540	205
35.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	97394	419
36.	West Bengal	37478	37421	57
	TOTAL	597618	569897	27721
