

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2777
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2020**

TELECOM COVERAGE IN TAMIL NADU

2777. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of telecommunication network coverage, district-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the same?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information provided by service providers, district-wise telecommunication network coverage in the Tamil Nadu service area is as follows:

S.No.	District Name	Population coverage (in %)
1	Ariyalur	100.00
2	Chennai	100.00
3	Coimbatore	100.00
4	Cuddalore	99.86
5	Dharmapuri	99.61
6	Dindigul	99.22
7	Erode	98.62
8	Kancheepuram (including Chengalpet)	99.75
9	Kanyakumari	99.82
10	Karur	100.00
11	Krishnagiri	96.27
12	Madurai	99.98
13	Nagapattinam	100.00
14	Namakkal	99.06
15	Perambalur	99.99
16	Pudukkottai	99.45
17	Ramanathapuram	97.21
18	Salem	99.16
19	Sivagangai	100.00
20	Thanjavur	100.00
21	The Nilgiris	99.26
22	Theni	98.74
23	Thiruvallur	99.97

24	Thiruvarur	100.00
25	Tuticorin	97.96
26	Tiruchirappalli	99.64
27	Tirunelveli (including Tenkasi)	100.00
28	Tiruppur	99.88
29	Thiruvannamalai	98.97
30	Vellore (including Ranipet & Tirupattur)	99.36
31	Viluppuram (including Kallakurichi)	98.81
32	Virudhunagar	99.99

(b) In order to facilitate expansion of telecommunication services, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs as below:

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands (700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands) in 2016.
- (ii) allowing spectrum sharing, trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the TSPs for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 dated 15.11.2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.
