

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3955
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2020**

MOBILE SERVICE IN BACKWARD AND TRIBAL AREAS

†3955. SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the country especially in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which these services are likely to be provided in each village of backward and tribal areas in the country especially in the said State?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Yes, to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra, the following projects are approved/implemented by the Government:

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2,343 towers in the country including 65 towers in Maharashtra have been installed;
- (ii) Under LWE Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 2,217 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity in the country including 125 mobile towers in Maharashtra;
- (iii) To provide mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas, Ladakh and Kargil Region and other priority areas;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) A scheme for provisioning of 4G based Mobile service in 502 uncovered villages in Aspirational districts of four states Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan has been approved.
- (vi) Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country;

- (vii) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (viii) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (ix) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 4 Gbps and 1.71 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands respectively.

(c) Connectivity to the uncovered inhabited villages is being provided by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner.
