GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 679
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020

MOBILE SERVICES IN VILLAGES

679.   DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:
        SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of villages of the country which have not yet been provided with mobile services so far, State/ UT-wise along with the reasons therefor;

(b)   the extent to which Government has resolved the said reasons through modern technology and instruments; and

(c)   the number of Wi-Fi hotspots that have been installed at Gram Panchayats (GPs) and services are provided therefrom, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that 27,721 villages (as per the Census 2011) in the country are not covered by mobile services. The State/Union Territories-wise list of uncovered villages is at **Annexure-I.** The reasons for not having mobile services in these villages include, inter-alia, remote and tough terrain, areas diversely located with scattered population and commercially non-viable operations. Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages in the country is being provided by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner. Following projects are approved for providing/facilitating mobile services in these inhabited villages:

  (i)   Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2355 towers have been installed by Government of India. Under LWE Phase-II project, installation of 2217 mobile towers have 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 has also been

approved. The remaining uncovered villages are being covered in a phased manner by the telecom service providers and Government;

(iii) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villagesalongwith 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): As of now, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 18,041 GPs. The State/UT wise details of Wi-Fi provided is given in **Annexure-II.**

Annexure-I referred to in Part (a) to (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 679 for answer on 05.02.2020

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

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of inhabited villages as per census 2011	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	6101	5963	138
16.	Jharkhand	29492	28239	1253
17.	Karnataka	27397	26834	563
18.	Kerala	1017	1017	0
19.	Ladakh	236	174	62
20.	Lakshadweep	6	5	1
21.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	48959	2970
22.	Maharashtra	40959	37970	2989
23.	Manipur	2515	1727	788
24.	Meghalaya	6459	4861	1598
25.	Mizoram	704	434	270
26.	Nagaland	1400	1131	269
27.	Odisha	47677	41128	6549
28.	Punjab	12168	12168	0
29.	Puducherry	90	90	0
30.	Rajasthan	43264	42494	770
31.	Sikkim	425	414	11
32.	Tamil Nadu	15049	15021	28
33.	Telangana	10128	10018	110
34.	Tripura	863	855	8
35.	Uttarakhand	15745	15540	205
36.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	97394	419
37.	West Bengal	37478	37421	57
	TOTAL	**597618**	**569897**	**27721**

Annexure-II referred to in Part (c)of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 679 for answer on 05.02.2020

State-wise details of Wi-Fi installed under Bharat Net

Sr.No.	State/UT	Total	
		Wi-Fi Installed (GPs)	Wi-Fi Active (GPs)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	160	155
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	0	4
4.	Bihar	292	219
5.	Chandigarh	12	12
6.	Chhattisgarh	517	435
7.	Gujarat	86	65
8.	Himachal Pradesh	200	157
9.	Haryana	1063	712
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	570	492
11.	Jharkhand	312	254
12.	Karnataka	2569	1869
13.	Kerala	731	728
14.	Ladakh	170	169
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1350	826
16.	Maharashtra	776	437
17.	Manipur	204	44
18.	Meghalaya	70	70
19.	Mizoram	60	20
20.	Orissa	113	107
21.	Puducherry	81	81
22.	Punjab	0	0
23.	Rajasthan	8813	3964
24.	Tripura	157	77
25.	Uttar Pradesh	270950	6827
26.	Uttarakhand	353	315
27.	West Bengal	11	2
	Grand Total	**45769**	**18041**

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