

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2021**

MOBILE AND INTERNET SERVICES IN RURAL AND LWE AFFECTED AREAS

*310. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in rural areas and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the country which are yet to be connected with mobile telephone and internet services, as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the schemes/programmes implemented by the Government to ensure mobile and internet services in each village of the country;
- (c) the details of the funds provided by the Government under the said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and Scheme/Programme-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the impact of such unavailability of mobile telephone and internet services on its Digital India Programme;
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *310 FOR 17.03.2021 REGARDING “MOBILE AND INTERNET SERVICES IN RURAL AND LWE AFFECTED AREAS”

(a) to (f): To have a comprehensive and objective data about the availability of mobile and internet connectivity in villages, all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) were directed to collect the data village-wise and furnish to the Department. From the said data, it is estimated that out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages in the country, as per Census-2011, 5,72,551 villages have been provided with mobile and internet connectivity. As per Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 90 districts falling under 11 States are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). In these 90 districts, 85,894 villages are having mobile and internet services out of total number of 96,794 inhabited villages (as per Census-2011). State wise details are given in **Annexure-I and II**.

The Government through various schemes approved under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) namely, LWE-Phase-I and Phase-II projects, Aspirational districts' scheme, Border Area Villages' scheme, commissioning of submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity from Chennai to Andaman Nicobar Islands, scheme for connecting submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Kochi to Lakshadweep Islands, BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II projects, etc., is providing mobile and internet services in rural areas and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism(LWE) in the country. The details are given in **Annexure-III**. Mobile and internet services in the remaining uncovered villages are provided by Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in phased manner.

The Statement of State/UT-Wise and Scheme/Programme-wise disbursement of Funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund during last three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and current financial year 2020-21 upto 31.01.2021 are enclosed as **Annexure-IV & V**.

Annexure-I referred to in Part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.310 for 17.03.2021

No. of Villages with Mobile Connectivity

Sr. No.	State/UT	Total No. of inhabited villages as per Census 2011	No. of inhabited villages with mobile connectivity as per 2020 data	No. of Uncovered villages
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	396	245	151
2	Andhra Pradesh	16158	14371	1787
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	3035	2223
4	Assam	25372	24756	616
5	Bihar	39073	38828	245
6	Chandigarh	5	5	0
7	Chhattisgarh	19567	17720	1847
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	84	84	0
9	Delhi	103	103	0
10	Goa	320	292	28
11	Gujarat	17843	17331	512
12	Haryana	6642	6642	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	17882	17499	383
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6101	5947	154
15	Jharkhand	29492	28348	1144
16	Karnataka	27397	26956	441
17	Kerala	1017	1017	0
18	Ladakh	236	172	64
19	Lakshadweep	6	5	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	51929	49317	2612
21	Maharashtra	40959	38631	2328
22	Manipur	2515	2052	463
23	Meghalaya	6459	4785	1674
24	Mizoram	704	498	206
25	Nagaland	1400	1256	144
26	Odisha	47677	41578	6099
27	Punjab	12168	12168	0
28	Puducherry	90	90	0
29	Rajasthan	43264	42323	941
30	Sikkim	425	415	10
31	Tamil Nadu	15049	15000	49
32	Telangana	10128	9975	153
33	Tripura	863	832	31
34	Uttar Pradesh	97813	97486	327
35	Uttarakhand	15745	15319	426
36	West Bengal	37478	37470	8
Total		597618	572551	25067

Annexure-II referred to in Part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.310 for 17.03.2021No. of Villages covered with mobile connectivity in LWE districts

Sr. No.	State Name	No. of inhabited villages in LWE Districts (as per census 2011)	No. of inhabited villages covered with mobile connectivity	No. of Uncovered villages
1	Andhra Pradesh	9070	7419	1651
2	Bihar	19956	19742	214
3	Chhattisgarh	8725	7442	1283
4	Jharkhand	21878	20989	889
5	Madhya Pradesh	2475	2337	138
6	Maharashtra	3855	2765	1090
7	Odisha	22363	16944	5419
8	Telangana	3160	2983	177
9	Uttar Pradesh	4561	4522	39
10	West Bengal	489	489	0
11	Kerala	262	262	0
	TOTAL	96794	85894	10900

Annexure-III referred to in Part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.310 for 17.03.2021

List of Schemes approved under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

- (i) Under LWE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LWE areas across 10 LWE States and are providing services. Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are approved across the 10 LWE States.
- (ii) Scheme for providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas;
- (iii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region consisting of following components, to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and along with the National Highways;
 - (a) CTDP for NER States of Assam (except 2 districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao), Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura for Installation of 2,004 mobile towers for provision of mobile services in 2,128 uncovered villages and mobile connectivity along National Highways;
 - (b) Scheme for installation of 889 towers for provisioning of mobile services in 1164 uncovered villages and along National Highways in the State of Meghalaya;
 - (c) Scheme for installation of 1,533 towers for provisioning of mobile services in 2,374 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam, i.e. Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.
- (iv) Scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- (v) BharatNet project for providing broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country;
- (vi) Laying of submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (vii) Submarine OFC Connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands;
- (viii) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (ix) Mobile connectivity has been enhanced in Lakshadweep Islands by installing 10 mobile towers;
- (x) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 4 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (xi) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 1.71 Gbps for Lakshadweep Islands.

Annexure-IV referred to in Part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.310 for 17.03.2021

State/UT/CCA-Wise disbursement of Funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund during last three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and current financial year 2020-21 upto 31.01.2021					
Sl. No.	Name of CCA/States/UT	Figures in Crore			
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.03	149.25	297.28	516.08
2	Andhra Pradesh	33.77	16.48	23.33	26.11
3	Assam	3.49	6.34	171.81	91.57
4	Bihar	65.94	63.07	68.36	29.52
5	Chhattisgarh	211.46	85.36	90.24	35.77
6	Delhi	0.04	---	---	---
7	Funds to BSNL for VPT	---	---	21.84	---
8	Funds to BBNL for BharatNet	6000.00	4145.54	1657.74	4341.85
9	Gujrat	14.42	---	5.86	---
10	Haryana	6.97	0.95	2.87	2.05
11	Himachal Pradesh	5.42	2.70	3.36	1.11
12	Jammu & Kashmir	8.57	0.03	1.26	0.12
13	Jharkhand	185.56	129.32	149.84	85.97
14	Karnataka	26.12	0.01	11.41	---
15	Kerala	8.78	0.02	8.39	1.18
16	Lakshadweep	---	39.66	---	9.21
17	Maharashtra	64.59	19.34	40.02	15.97
18	Madhya Pradesh	36.99	4.09	9.72	9.63
19	North East-I*	1.29	0.08	48.38	51.59
20	North East-II**	0.47	0.01	136.52	129.44
21	Odisha	142.64	72.92	93.82	33.45
22	Punjab	9.89	---	3.37	2.26
23	Rajasthan	13.04	3.68	4.77	0.55
24	Talangan	25.44	19.87	10.30	5.50
25	Tamil Nadu	10.32	---	6.65	0.05
26	Uttar Pradesh	78.46	6.75	35.72	14.54
27	Uttaranchal	8.24	---	1.21	---
28	West Bengal	36.79	22.77	21.92	21.55
Grand Total		6998.76	4788.22	2926.00	5425.06
*North East-I:- Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura					
**North East-II:- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland					

Annexure-V referred to in Part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.310 for 17.03.2021

Scheme/Programme-Wise disbursement of Funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund during last three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and current financial year 2020-21 upto 31.01.2021					
Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Figures in Crore			
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Setting up of 200 Wi-Fi through BSNL	2.81	---	---	---
2	Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi at Rural Exchanges of BSNL	187.50	---	128.45	37.39
3	5000 Wi-Fi Chaupal through CSC	68.16	---	---	---
4	Shri AMARNATH JI Yatra	6.91	---	---	---
5	BharatNet	6000.00	4145.54	1657.74	4341.85
6	Impact Assessment	---	---	0.15	---
7	Provision of Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (LWE Phase-I)	710.90	414.31	459.79	241.78
8	Provision of Mobile Services in North Eastern Region and National Highways by Airtel	---	---	353.10	273.63
9	Village Public Telephones in uncovered villages as per census 2001 (New VPT-2)	2.03	8.48	22.15	0.02
10	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fibre Network in Assam	---	6.12	---	---
11	Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines installed after 01.04.2007 (RDEL-X)	---	18.04	---	---
12	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Andaman & Nicobar	---	56.00	38.06	13.29
13	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep	---	39.66	---	---
14	Setting up Ten 2G BTS in Lakshadweep	---	---	---	9.21
15	Provision of Submarine OFC connectivity in A&N Islands	---	93.25	259.22	502.79
16	Uncovered Villages under A&N	0.03	---	---	---
17	Setting up of Wi-Fi at 200 Railway Stations by RailTel	7.39	2.01	0.91	5.03
18	Rural Wireline Broadband	13.03	4.81	6.41	0.06
Grand Total		6998.76	4788.22	2926.00	5425.06
