

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3455
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2021**

Shortage of BSNL's Mobile Towers

3455. SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the lack of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towers and network in remote areas of the country especially in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether BSNL has erected or plans to erect mobile towers in eastern region of Vidarbha; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that out of 79,018 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed in rural areas under all the Licensed Service Areas (LSAs), 3,496 BTSs are working in Vidharbha region. BTSs are being added in rural as well as urban areas under its various network expansion phases. In the current network expansion phase, total 69,083 BTSs have been installed across all the LSAs including 1,423 in Vidharbha region.

Further, as per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2020, it is estimated that out of 5,97,681 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the country, 5,72,551 villages have mobile coverage. In Maharashtra, 38,631 out of 40,959 inhabited villages have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages is being provided in phases both by TSPs and the Government.

(c) & (d) BSNL has informed that under its current network expansion phase, 1174 number of BTSs have been added in Eastern region of Vidharbha. Based on future network expansion plans and techno-commercial viability, more BTSs can be added.
