

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1806
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2021**

MOBILE SERVICES IN LWE AREAS

1806. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

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; and
- (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 the Schemes/Programme-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSP) and field units of the Department of Telecommunications, as of December 2020, it is estimated that out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) of the country, 25,067 villages including areas affected by Left Wing Extremism do not have mobile and internet coverage. The State/UT wise status of mobile and internet connectivity in the villages of the country is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The details of major Government Schemes funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for mobile and internet connectivity is placed as **Annexure-II**.
- (c) Scheme-wise and State-wise details of disbursement of Funds for USOF schemes for providing Mobile and Internet Services during last three years (2018-19 to 2020-21) and current year 2021-22 (upto Oct., 2021) are enclosed as **Annexure-III & IV**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1806 for answer on 08.12.2021

State/UT-wise details of the number of villages in rural areas including areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) without mobile and internet connectivity

| S. No. | State/UT | No. of uncovered villages |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 151 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1787 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2223 |
| 4. | Assam | 616 |
| 5. | Bihar | 245 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 1847 |
| 7. | Goa | 28 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 512 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 383 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 154 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1144 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 441 |
| 13. | Ladakh | 64 |
| 14. | Lakshadweep | 1 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 2612 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 2328 |
| 17. | Manipur | 463 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 1674 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 206 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 144 |
| 21. | Odisha | 6099 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 941 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 10 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 49 |
| 25. | Telangana | 153 |
| 26. | Tripura | 31 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 327 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 426 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 8 |
| Total | | 25067 |

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1806 for answer on 08.12.2021

Details of major Government Schemes under USOF for mobile and internet connectivity.

| S.No. | Scheme |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Left Wing Extremism Phase-I (LWE-I) Scheme. |
| 2 | Left Wing Extremism Phase-II (LWE-II) Scheme. |
| 3 | 354 uncovered villages scheme. |
| 4 | Aspirational Districts scheme. |
| 5 | Mobile Services in Uncovered villages in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh (National Highways only) of NER and seamless coverage along National Highway. |
| 6 | Mobile Services in Uncovered villages of Meghalaya and seamless coverage along National Highway. |
| 7 | Mobile Services in Uncovered Villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam (Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao). |
| 8 | Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 Uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. |
| 9 | BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country including LWE areas. |
| 10 | Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi at Rural Exchanges of BSNL. |

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1806 for answer on 08.12.2021.

| Scheme-wise details of disbursement of funds from USOF to provide mobile and internet services in rural areas of the country | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Rs. in Crore | | | | | |
| Sl. No. | Activity | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 (upto Oct, 2021) |
| 1 | Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi at Rural Exchanges of BSNL | - | 128.45 | 115.64 | 45.52 |
| 2 | Provision of Mobile Services in 354 Uncovered Villages | - | - | 0.52 | 3.32 |
| 3 | BharatNet | 4145.54 | 1657.74 | 5919.79 | 2876.28 |
| 4 | Provision of Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (LWE Phase-I) | 414.31 | 459.79 | 305.03 | 218.68 |
| 5 | Provision of Mobile Services in North Eastern Region and National Highways by Airtel | - | 353.10 | 280.78 | 26.00 |
| | Grand Total | 4559.85 | 2599.08 | 6621.76 | 3169.8 |

Annexure-IV

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1806 for answer on 08.12.2021.

| State/UT-wise details of disbursement of funds under major USOF schemes for providing mobile and internet services in rural areas of the country. | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Figures in crore | | | | | |
| Sl. No. | State/UT | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 (Upto Oct., 2021) |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 3.09 | 11.58 | 40.18 | 4.93 |
| 2 | Assam | - | 170.25 | 91.21 | 21.18 |
| 3 | Bihar | 35.79 | 58.73 | 34.30 | 7.63 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 28.2 | 48.50 | 38.62 | 10.55 |
| 5 | Centrally Allocated Funds # | 4314.7 | 1840.3 | 5981.5 | 3003.20 |
| 6 | Gujarat | | 0.37 | 5.60 | 5.54 |
| 7 | Haryana | 0.42 | 0.68 | 2.05 | 0.89 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | - | 1.55 | 1.75 | 0.15 |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | - | 0.68 | 0.12 | 1.03 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 107.57 | 138.15 | 109.85 | 34.99 |
| 11 | Karnataka | - | 5.44 | - | - |
| 12 | Kerala | - | 5.34 | 2.08 | 1.38 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 6.8 | 19.25 | 15.97 | 24.32 |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | 2.59 | 3.03 | 11.65 | 2.06 |
| 15 | NE-I* | - | 47.98 | 57.99 | 5.12 |
| 16 | NE-II** | - | 136.12 | 129.35 | - |
| 17 | Odisha | 33.58 | 61.42 | 42.87 | 17.75 |
| 18 | Punjab | - | - | 2.44 | 2.82 |
| 19 | Rajasthan | - | 0.08 | 0.55 | 1.35 |
| 20 | Telangana | 16.66 | 4.91 | 14.76 | 6.15 |
| 21 | Tamil Nadu | - | 3.06 | 0.26 | 0.15 |
| 22 | Uttar Pradesh | 3.33 | 27.10 | 13.53 | 14.53 |
| 23 | West Bengal | 7.55 | 14.60 | 25.11 | 4.11 |
| | Total | 4559.85 | 2599.08 | 6621.76 | 3169.8 |

Funds released for BharatNet, LTE-I and Wi-Fi at BSNL rural exchanges.

*NE-I includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura

**NE-II includes Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur
