

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH APRIL, 2022**

MOBILE TOWERS CONNECTED TO OPTICAL FIBRE

**†*483. SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers connected by optical fibre in the country alongwith the State-wise percentage thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to connect all mobile towers by optical fibre;
- (c) the details of the obstacles being faced in connecting all mobile towers by optical fibre;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any plan to overcome the said obstacles; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 483 FOR 6TH APRIL, 2022 REGARDING “MOBILE TOWERS CONNECTED TO OPTICAL FIBRE”.

(a) Sir, Telecom Service Providers fiberise their Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed on mobile towers and 7,93,551 BTSs have been connected by optical fibre in the country as on 01.02.2022. The State wise percentage of BTSs connected with Optical Fibre is given at **Annexure**.

(b) to (e) The BTS used to provide mobile communications belong to the Telecom Service Providers (**TSPs**) and the decisions to connect them through fibre or other means including microwave is taken by TSPs based on various techno-commercial considerations including network capacity required at that particular location. The major obstacle in fiberisation of Telecom Towers, as reported by TSPs, are high charges, complex process and delay involved in getting Right of Way (**ROW**) permissions due to non-alignment of ROW Policy of States with Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 notified by the Central Government.

Government is facilitating the TSPs for laying optical fibre by means of addressing RoW challenges and creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Right of Way, standardization of costs and timelines for approval, and removal of barriers for grant of approvals. So far, 32 States/Union Territories have largely aligned their State RoW Policy with Indian Telegraph RoW Rules, 2016. DoT has taken up the development of a Centralized online portal for RoW permissions.

ANNEXURE

STATE WISE PERCENTAGE OF BTSs CONNECTED WITH OPTICAL FIBRE AS ON
01.02.2022:

S. No.	State/UT	Total number of BTSs	Number of BTSs connected with fibre	Percentage of BTSs connected with fibre (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	80,214	29,469	36.7
2	Andaman & Nicobar	702	499	71.1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4,058	1,436	35.4
4	Assam	53,448	17,269	32.3
5	Bihar	1,02,938	31,055	30.2
6	Chandigarh	3,892	1,608	41.3
7	Chattisgarh	43,139	13,051	30.3
8	DNH & DD	1,666	504	30.3
9	Delhi	67,663	30,283	44.8
10	Goa	5,435	2,010	37.0
11	Gujarat	1,40,066	50,177	35.8
12	Haryana	77,824	27,221	35.0
13	Himachal Pradesh	24,365	6,447	26.5
14	Jammu & Kashmir	32,911	13,628	41.4
15	Jharkhand	46,564	15,291	32.8
16	Karnataka	1,47,420	52,084	35.3
17	Kerala	92,432	30,024	32.5
18	Ladakh	1,148	637	55.5
19	Lakshadweep	64	0	0.0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,18,763	40,701	34.3
21	Maharashtra	2,40,951	82,513	34.2
22	Manipur	7,262	2,261	31.1
23	Meghalaya	6,601	2,274	34.4
24	Mizoram	3,540	1,080	30.5
25	Nagaland	5,030	1,329	26.4
26	Odisha	69,936	23,016	32.9
27	Puducherry	2,490	1,168	46.9
28	Punjab	78,949	26,332	33.4
29	Rajasthan	1,26,912	42,391	33.4
30	Sikkim	2,393	859	35.9
31	Tamil Nadu	1,58,631	62,624	39.5
32	Telangana	86,051	31,499	36.6
33	Tripura	7,875	2,768	35.1
34	Uttarakhand	29,835	9,952	33.4
35	Uttar Pradesh	2,89,326	89,058	30.8
36	West Bengal	1,46,574	51,033	34.8
	TOTAL	23,07,068	7,93,551	34.4
