

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 43
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2022**

TELEDENSITY & MOBILE SERVICE COVERAGE

43. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of data on the teledensity and mobile service coverage in the Northeast Region(NER) between 2014 and 2021, State and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is currently taking any measures to improve teledensity and mobile service coverage in the NER and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) The status of implementation of Bharat Net in the NER and the details thereof;
- (d) Whether the Government is employing new technologies to overcome geographical barriers in order to expand telecom coverage in the NER, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) Whether the Government took any measures to expand internet coverage or access to internet connections in the NER for students during the COVID pandemic and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information provided by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), State and year-wise data of the North Eastern Region (NER) between 2014 and 2021, is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) Mobile services are provided in a phased manner by the Government in the uncovered villages, and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the country. The Government has the following schemes in the NER under Universal Service Obligation Fund:
 - Scheme for provision of 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.
 - Scheme for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages of Meghalaya and seamless coverage along National Highway.
 - Scheme for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts (Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao) of Assam.
- (c) & (d) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country (including NER). On 30.06.2021, the scope of BharatNet was extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs, alongwith

approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country, including seven states of NER (i.e. Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh). Request for Proposal (RFP) has been floated for implementing the project on 20.07.2021. The State-wise details of Service Ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet Project in NER are given in **Annexure-II**.

GPs falling in remote and hilly areas of NER, where laying of Optical Fiber is difficult, BharatNet connectivity is provided through satellite media. The newly developed High Throughput Satellites (HTS) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), viz. GSAT-11 and GSAT-19, are being used to expand telecom coverage in hilly and areas having difficult access of NER.

(e) The internet services are provided over Mobile and Wireline Media by Telecom Service Providers, and Government through USOF funded Schemes in NER. The above internet services have been utilized by the citizens, including students.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 43 for answer on 02.02.2022

State-wise Data on the Teledensity in the Northern Eastern Region (NER) form June-2014 to June-2021

State	As on June-14		As on June-15		As on June-16		As on June-17		As on June-18		As on June-19		As on June-20		As on June-21	
	Total Tele-density (Wireline + Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density	Total Tele-density (Wireline+ Wireless)	Wireless Tele-density
Arunachal Pradesh	70.72	69.75	77.16	76.25	81.84	80.96	91.16	90.33	100.43	98.65	96.68	94.92	85.41	84	89.66	88.55
Manipur									81.35	80.59	91.63	90.87	73.6	72.97	77.22	76.45
Meghalaya									73.12	72.48	80.32	79.74	70.78	70.23	75.06	74.22
Mizoram									109.89	108.57	123.63	122.45	110.66	109.73	117.58	116.05
Nagaland									65.38	64.91	70.4	70.11	74.57	74.27	75.46	74.95
Tripura									82.98	82.45	75.02	74.52	76.27	75.78	78.93	78.16
Assam	49.5	48.92	55.05	54.33	59.46	58.97	67.69	67.24	63.52	63.13	70.34	70.01	67.83	67.51	71.75	71.29
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112.8	111.81	113.66	112.79	100.21	99.44	142.49	141.7

Note:

1. Form June 2014 to June-2017, State wise density is not available, therefore, Licensed Service Area (LSA)-wise tele density has been provided for this period in above table.
2. The yearly comparison of teledensity is of the June of the corresponding year as the least data on state-wise teledensity published by TRAI is of June,2021
3. Data for Sikkim upto the year 2017 is not available separately and has been included in West Bengal LSA

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in parts (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 43 for answer on 02.02.2022

State-wise details of Service Ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) in North Eastern Region under BharatNet Project

S. No.	State	Number of GPs made Service Ready (as of December 2021)
1.	Assam	1507
2.	Sikkim	23
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	768
4.	Manipur	1436
5.	Meghalaya	625
6.	Mizoram	452
7.	Nagaland	230
8.	Tripura	720
Total		5761
