

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.341  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

**RURAL TELEPHONY**

**†\*341. SHRIMATI SAKUNTALA LAGURI:  
SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of urban and rural households in India which do not have access to a phone as yet, State-wise;
- (b) whether the expansion of telecom services in rural, backward, tribal and hilly regions is slow as compared to urban areas and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any target to provide telephone facilities to every household especially in rural and inaccessible areas and if so, the measures taken for expansion of telecom services in low penetrated areas and States; and
- (d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State and year-wise?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Contd.....2/-

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.341 FOR 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, 2015 REGARDING "RURAL TELEPHONY".**

(a) & (b) The Department does not maintain the data on households' access to telephones, but tele-density can be taken as a good indicator of penetration of telephony in the country. The current level of rural and urban tele-density in the country is 48.79 and 152.36 respectively (as on 30.09.2015). The State-wise details are at **Annexure I.**

5,41,939 villages out of total 5,97,608 villages in the country are already covered with mobile services, leaving only 55,669 villages, i.e., 9.31%, without coverage. (State-wise details of uncovered villages are **Annexure-II**). Since the demand of telecom services is price sensitive, the level of tele-density is also determined by the purchasing ability of the consumers. The increase in rural tele-density has gathered momentum in recent times but the wide gap between rural and urban tele-density can be explained by the difference in purchasing power of rural and urban consumers.

(c) Although no year to year target has been fixed for the expansion of telecom services, the National Telecom Policy has set the objectives of increasing rural tele-density to 70 percent by 2017 and 100 percent by 2020. The Department has taken several measures for expansion and improvement of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas as given below:

- (i) On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages providing mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- (ii) 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. 1134 mobile towers are radiating as on 30.11.2015.
- (iii) Telecom Commission has given 'in principle' approval on 07.11.2014 for Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands with a total estimated investment of Rs. 221.05 crores.
- (iv) BharatNet / National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is planned to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. As on 30.11.2015, 1,03,643 km of duct and 74,994 km of optical fibre cable covering 32,049 Gram Panchayats have been laid.

(d) State-wise details of funds allocated and utilized for expansion of telecom services under various schemes implemented by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are enclosed as **Annexure-III.**

**Contd.....3/-**

## Annexure - I

**Service Area-wise growth in rural and urban teledensity (in %) for the last three years and current year  
(as on 30.09.2015)**

Sr. No.	Name of the service area	31.03.2013		31.03.2014		31.03.2015		30.09.2015		
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	41.83	169.00	45.53	167.60	49.04	174.94	49.55	177.52	85.26
2	Assam	31.13	130.91	34.36	126.27	39.18	132.26	41.25	135.81	56.36
3	Bihar	27.53	160.29	29.41	150.96	33.16	164.26	35.03	173.16	54.07
4	Gujarat	53.12	136.39	57.44	137.63	61.85	143.01	62.14	141.67	95.34
5	Haryana	56.78	113.50	59.77	121.40	59.62	124.23	57.39	127.97	82.74
6	Himachal Pradesh	74.50	347.60	77.07	326.01	84.87	340.71	90.02	359.79	121.46
7	Jammu & Kashmir	36.72	116.92	42.61	130.70	55.85	132.04	58.30	136.77	80.10
8	Karnataka	43.00	170.38	46.24	167.19	49.05	174.89	52.14	177.49	100.65
9	Kerala	61.93	196.12	64.34	189.66	67.09	178.73	60.97	211.96	99.24
10	Madhya Pradesh	30.91	115.09	33.67	116.34	36.81	122.85	37.53	126.68	61.90
11	Maharashtra & Goa	52.43	113.59	55.82	116.26	60.24	117.32	60.74	121.18	82.57
12	North East	40.57	151.51	42.68	153.01	51.09	154.91	51.75	157.77	78.32
13	Odisha	38.72	164.00	39.87	161.16	44.46	172.11	46.32	177.88	69.52
14	Punjab	67.16	151.97	71.96	154.34	71.96	145.39	70.42	148.88	104.63
15	Rajasthan	44.63	153.82	48.58	160.01	53.55	153.93	55.05	156.26	79.49
16	Tamil Nadu	66.33	139.93	74.02	138.16	82.75	141.81	80.92	139.61	115.76
17	Uttar Pradesh	33.34	137.69	35.55	131.52	38.88	133.87	39.26	136.59	61.48
18	West Bengal	40.58	135.72	41.71	135.28	47.41	139.77	49.62	150.34	64.12
	<b>All India</b>	<b>41.05</b>	<b>146.64</b>	<b>44.01</b>	<b>145.46</b>	<b>48.04</b>	<b>149.04</b>	<b>48.79</b>	<b>152.36</b>	<b>81.02</b>

**State-wise list of Uncovered Villages**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of the State/UT</b>	<b>Total number of inhabited villages</b>	<b>No. of Uncovered Villages</b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16335	3812
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2886
3.	Assam	25372	2885
4.	Bihar	39073	2534
5.	Chhattisgarh	19567	4041
6.	Goa	320	65
7.	Gujarat	17843	1275
8.	Haryana	6642	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	2416
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6337	460
11.	Jharkhand	29492	5949
12.	Karnataka	27397	0
13.	Kerala	1017	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5926
15.	Maharashtra	40959	4792
16.	Manipur	2515	610
17.	Meghalaya	6459	2389
18.	Mizoram	704	258
19.	Nagaland	1400	137
20.	Odisha	47675	10398
21.	Punjab	12168	91
22.	Rajasthan	43264	770
23.	Sikkim	425	23
24.	Tamil Nadu	15049	113
25.	Telangana	10347	1009
26.	Tripura	863	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97814	266
28.	Uttarakhand	15745	1876
29.	West Bengal	37469	487
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	684	190
31.	Puducherry		0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		5
33.	Daman & Diu		1
34.	Lakshadweep		1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>597608</b>	<b>55669</b>

**Annexure-III**

<b>Circle Wise / State Wise Statement of Funds allocated and utilized for expansion of Telecom Services for the last three years and current year for USOF Schemes (In Crore of Rupees)</b>					
<b>Controller of Communications Accounts(CCA)/ Circle</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16 (upto 31.10.15)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Andaman & Nicobar	0.08	0.08	0.04	00.01	0.19
Andhra Pradesh	23.54	11.35	19.03	1.09	54.99
Assam	1.05	1.06	32.35	0.32	34.77
Bihar	6.61	8.16	4.05	2.08	20.91
Chhattisgarh	10.16	9.22	2.56	0.37	22.30
Dot HQ	405	2014	1948.37	783.57	5150.94
Gujarat	1.51	0.20	0.00	0.00	1.71
Haryana	2.23	0.39	1.17	1.57	5.37
Himachal Pradesh	4.15	2.10	0.70	0.19	7.14
Jammu & Kashmir	3.32	1.98	0.27	0.47	6.03
Jharkhand	3.72	3.35	0.52	0.09	7.69
Karnataka	14.69	14.82	8.34	0.00	37.85
Kerala	3.63	3.82	3.75	1.32	12.52
Maharashtra	6.23	11.45	20.39	13.15	51.22
Madhya Pradesh	19.37	19.17	13.49	11.48	63.51
North East-I	13.68	7.44	2.30	5.45	28.87
North East-II	11.02	2.79	1.23	1.07	16.10
Odisha	16.57	14.46	7.70	0.00	38.73
Punjab	6.02	6.97	8.48	3.78	25.25
Rajasthan	17.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.98
Tamil Nadu	16.42	14.17	0.05	0.00	30.65
Uttar Pradesh(East)	20.15	2.93	4.25	0.59	27.91
Uttar Pradesh (West)	8.95	5.39	0.95	0.16	15.45
Uttarakhand	5.07	4.70	1.48	0.19	11.45
West Bengal	3.85	3.46	5.52	0.00	12.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>625.00</b>	<b>2163.45</b>	<b>2086.98</b>	<b>826.95</b>	<b>5702.36</b>

\* North East-I includes: Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram

\*\* North East-II includes: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland