

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2023
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2016**

TELECOM AND INTERNET SERVICES

2023. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:
SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:
SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:
DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented a new tele-communications policy to provide telecom and internet services in each village across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is scarcity of mobile towers in the rural areas and private operators are less interested in expanding their services in such areas and BSNL does not have sufficient funds to develop mobile infrastructure and install towers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of mobile towers installed in various States separately in rural and urban areas, operator and State-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost installation of more mobile towers in the rural areas to improve telecom connectivity, State-wise including Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The National Telecom Policy has set the objectives of increasing rural tele-density to 70 percent by 2017 and 100 percent by the year 2020 and providing 175 million broadband connection by 2017 and 600 million by 2020. The current level of rural and urban tele-density in the country is 49.82 and 152.57 respectively and the number of broadband subscriber is 136.53 million (as on 31.12.2015). The State-wise details are at **Annexure I**.

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(c) to (e) Details of number of towers in rural and urban areas are not being maintained separately by the Department of Telecommunication. However, the details of total number of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) as on 31.01.2016, License Service Area (LSA) -wise and operator-wise are at **Annexure-II** and **Annexure-III**.

It is estimated that there are 55,669 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. State-wise details are at **Annexure-IV**. Mobile coverage to these balance uncovered villages has been planned to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources.

Various Schemes are being implemented/ planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of mobile services in rural and remote areas. Details of such schemes are as below:

- (i) 7,317 Mobile towers have been installed with the financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme in villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage. State-wise details are enclosed as **Annexure-V**. The infrastructure so created is capable of being shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. The scheme was implemented during the period from June, 2007 to November, 2013.
- (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. The project is being executed by BSNL. State-wise details are enclosed as **Annexure-VI**. 1517 sites are radiating as on 29.02.2016.
- (iii) 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 to provide 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). State-wise details are enclosed as **Annexure-VII**.

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State-wise details of Rural and Urban Tele-density

S.No.	Service area	Rural teledensity in % as on 31.12.2015.	Urban teledensity in % as on 31.12.2015.	Total teledensity in % as on 31.12.2015.
1	Andhra Pradesh	50.95	178.38	86.53
2	Assam	41.16	128.79	55.22
3	Bihar	35.09	161.70	52.55
4	Gujarat	64.74	143.25	97.58
5	Haryana	58.22	130.92	84.42
6	Himachal Pradesh	92.62	365.74	124.54
7	Jammu & Kashmir	57.40	134.42	78.84
8	Karnataka	53.27	179.76	102.33
9	Kerala	61.56	215.32	100.52
10	Madhya Pradesh	38.83	127.40	63.07
11	Maharashtra	62.14	123.88	84.50
12	North East	52.67	154.19	78.17
13	Odisha	46.51	154.97	65.69
14	Punjab	70.51	147.41	104.15
15	Rajasthan	57.13	161.06	82.24
16	Tamil Nadu	83.25	140.30	117.27
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)			
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	40.67	140.58	63.51
19	West Bengal	49.35	133.01	61.40
20	Kolkata	#	#	160.30
21	Delhi	#	#	240.93
22	Mumbai	#	#	149.45
	All India Total	49.82	152.57	81.85

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Annexure-II

Sl. No.	Licence Service Area	Total BTSs as on 31-01-2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	89,597
2	Assam	20,671
3	Bihar	51,916
4	Chennai	31,382
5	DELHI	56,692
6	Gujarat	69,839
7	Haryana	27,973
8	Jammu and Kashmir	15,797
9	Karnataka	82,601
10	KERALA	49,675
11	Kolkata	29,614
12	Maharashtra	93,910
13	Mumbai	37,731
14	North East	12,985
15	ODISHA	28,448
16	Punjab	41,650
17	RAJASTHAN	49,459
18	West Bengal	38,107
19	Madhya Pradesh	69,000
20	TAMILNADU	67,037
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	67,008
22	Uttar Pradesh (West)	51,728
23	Himachal Pradesh	10,293
	Grand Total	10,93,113

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Annexure-III

Sl. No.	Telecom Service Provider	Total BTSs as on date as on 31-01-2016
1	Aircel/Dishnet	67,154
2	Airtel/BHL	2,50,572
3	BSNL	1,20,608
4	Etisalat/Allianz	1,366
5	IDEA/ABTL	1,76,353
6	Loop	4
7	MTNL	3,224
8	QTL/HFCL	2,396
9	Reliance	67,149
10	Reliance Jio	1,18,108
11	SPICE TELECOM	0
12	SSTL (MTS)	8,197
13	STEL	0
14	Tikona	416
15	TTSL/TTML/Tata	68,771
16	Videocon	5,085
17	Vodafone	1,79,275
18	Telenor/Telewings/Uninor	24,435
	Grand Total	10,93,113

Contd.....6/-

State-wise list of Uncovered Villages

Sr.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of inhabited villages	No. of Uncovered Villages
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
	TOTAL	597608	55669

Contd.....7/-

State-wise Mobile Tower sites installed under USOF Scheme of Shared Mobile Infrastructure

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total no. of sites commissioned as on 30.11.2013
1	Andhra Pradesh	327
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65
3	Assam	87
4	Bihar	453
5	Chhattisgarh	553
6	Gujarat	59
7	Haryana	12
8	Himachal Pradesh	258
9	Jammu & Kashmir	81
10	Jharkhand	273
11	Karnataka	381
12	Kerala	43
13	Madhya Pradesh	933
14	Maharashtra	956
15	Manipur	69
16	Meghalaya	107
17	Mizoram	43
18	Nagaland	50
19	Odisha	434
20	Punjab	14
21	Rajasthan	403
22	Sikkim	6
23	Tamil Nadu	327
24	Telangana	269
25	Tripura	115
26	Uttarakhand	184
27	Uttar Pradesh	652
28	West Bengal	163
TOTAL		7,317

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State-wise breakup of locations under the scheme of mobile services to LWE Affected Areas

S. No.	State	No. of Total Locations identified by MHA
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54
2.	Bihar	184
3.	Chhattisgarh	497
4.	Jharkhand	782
5.	Maharashtra	60
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22
7.	Odisha	253
8.	Telangana	173
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78
10.	West Bengal	96
Total		2,199

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Mobile Towers proposed for uncovered villages and along National Highways in NER

S.No.	STATE	No. of Villages proposed to be covered	Number of Towers Proposed for Uncovered Villages	No. of Towers proposed along National Highways
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	1893	149
2	Assam	2503	1874	33
3	Manipur	528	384	53
4	Meghalaya	2374	2162	11
5	Mizoram	252	227	19
6	Nagaland	134	112	48
7	Sikkim	23	19	1
8	Tripura	2	2	7
	TOTAL	8621	6673	321
