

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.93
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th FEBRUARY, 2016**

TELE DENSITY

†93. SHRI NITYANAND RAI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) whether despite the world largest market there is a huge gap between urban and rural tele density and 9.31 percent inhabited villages are yet to be covered by telephone services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) the details of village panchayats provided with telephone facilities and those yet to be provided under various schemes; State-wise;
- (d) details of telecom facilities provided in to the rural villages and households under Universal Service Obligation Funds (USOF) so far, State-wise; and
- (e) the action plan prepared by the Government to cover the left out villages with telephone facilities and to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the existing schemes?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The current level of rural and urban tele-density in the country is 49.82 and 152.57 respectively (as on 31.12.2015). 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) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided telephone facilities to 2,41,261 village panchayats out of 2,42,198 village panchayats. The state wise status of Gram Panchayats that have been provided with telephone facilities as on 31.12.2015 is at **Annexure-III.**

(d) Various schemes have been implemented for provision of telecom facilities in the rural and remote areas of the country with the financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as below:

Contd.....2/-

- (i) 7,317 Mobile towers have been installed with the financial support from USOF under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme in villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage. 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. The State-wise details of towers installed under the scheme are enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.
- (ii) Agreements were signed with BSNL and RIL [Reliance Infocomm Limited] on 30.09.2004 for providing 40,694 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) [BSNL: 21,958, RIL: 18,736] in villages with population more than 2000 and not having Public Call Office (PCO) facility. All of these 40694 RCPs have been provided. [The scheme is closed].
- (iii) Agreements were signed in March 2005 with M/s BSNL, Reliance Infocomm Limited(RIL), Tata Teleservices Ltd.(TTL) and Tata Teleservices Ltd (Maharashtra) [TTL (MH)] for installation of individual rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) during 01.04.2005 and 31.03.2007, in eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) out of total 2647 SDCAs, where cost of providing telephone connection was more than the revenue earned. About 79.3 lakhs RDELs have been provided under this scheme till the closure of the scheme on 31.03.2010.
- (iv) The Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme was implemented to provide wire-line broadband connectivity to rural & remote areas. As on 31.01.2015, a total of 6,56,345 broadband connections have been provided and 15,671 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas. State-wise details are given at **Annexure-V**.
- (e) Various Schemes are being implemented/planned with financial support from USOF to cover the left out villages with telephone facilities, as 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 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).
 - (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. 1431 sites are radiating as on 15.02.2016.
 - (iii) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for providing mobile coverage to Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), Western Border States (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Goa, Tamil Nadu, is in progress.

Contd.....3/-

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)	40.67	140.58	63.51
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)			
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

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

Status of Gram Panchayats connected with Telephone facilities by BSNL as on 31.12.2015

S.N	Circle/State-Wise	Total number of Gram Panchayats	No. of Gram Panchayats provided with Telecom facilities	No. of Non-feasible Gram Panchayats which are not provide with telephone facilities
1	Andaman & Nicobar	69	69	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	21870	21747	123
3	Assam	2283	2283	0
4	Bihar	8412	8411	1
5	Jharkhand	4562	4562	0
6	Gujarat	14855	14843	12
7	Haryana	6083	6083	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	3241	3241	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	4128	4116	12 (1 in PoK)
10	Karnataka	5713	5713	0
11	Kerala	978	978	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	23710	23710	0
13	Chhattisgarh	10757	10576	181
14	Maharashtra	28089	28089	0
15	North-East-I*	1038	1038	0
16	North-East-II [#]	1795	1268	527
17	Odisha	6236	6155	81
18	Punjab	12317	12317	0
19	Rajasthan	9177	9177	0
20	Tamil Nadu	13837	13837	0
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	37455	37455	0
22	Uttar Pradesh (West)	14516	14516	0
23	Uttarakhand	7546	7546	0
24	West Bengal	3531	3531	0
	Total	2,42,198	2,41,261	937 (1 in PoK)

*North East-I – Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura

#North East-II – Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur

**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	Tamilnadu	327
24	Telangana	269
25	Tripura	115
26	Uttarakhand	184
27	Uttar Pradesh	652
28	West Bengal	163
TOTAL		7,317

Telecom Circle-wise achievement under USOF's "Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme"

S. No.	Telecom Circle	No. of Rural Exchanges	No. of Broadband Connections provided as on 31.01.2014
1	A & N	45	405
2	Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana	2665	59647
3	Assam	429	5067
4	Bihar	1000	6817
5	Chhattisgarh	449	6743
6	Chennai	123	5230
7	Gujarat	1988	34315
8	Haryana	805	21012
9	Himachal	811	8188
10	Jammu &	209	3057
11	Jharkhand	291	3872
12	Karnataka	2217	20464
13	Kerala	1143	228741
14	Madhya	1982	25216
15	Maharashtra	4353	44200
16	North East I	149	2374
17	North East II	221	7872
18	Odisha	942	19828
19	Punjab	1217	37797
20	Rajasthan	1959	27,310
21	Tamil Nadu	1182	40075
22	Uttar	2764	27811
23	Uttarakhand	341	6891
24	West Bengal	1387	13413
TOTAL		28672	6,56,345