

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 969
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd MARCH, 2016
MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

†969. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the country particularly in the State of Maharashtra and Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which this service is likely to be provided particularly in each village in backward and tribal area of the country including said States; and
- (d) the estimated funds to be spent by the Government to start this service?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has proposed/planned various schemes with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the county including the State of Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Details of such schemes are as below:

- (i) 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. 452 mobile towers out of proposed 782 mobile towers in Jharkhand State and 50 mobile towers out of proposed 60 mobile towers in Maharashtra State are radiating as on 15.02.2016.
- (ii) 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).
- (iii) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages in the country including 4792 villages in Maharashtra and 5949 villages in Jharkhand 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. Details of the uncovered villages is enclosed as **annexure**.

Contd.....2/-

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
