

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:151

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012

AUGMENTATION OF MOBILE NETWORK

Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) the number of towers set up by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other service provider companies in the Maoist/Naxal affected areas of the country and those likely to be set up during the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government plans to improve mobile connectivity in these areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken in this regard so far, State-wise;
- (d) whether the network capacity of the BSNL and towers of other service providers is far below than the number of connections provided; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government to augment capacity?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY . (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 FOR 22ND AUGUST, 2012 REGARDING 'AUGMENTATION OF MOBILE NETWORK'

(a) The details of numbers of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other service provider companies in the Maoist/Naxal affected areas of the country, State-wise are as follows:

Name of State	Numbers of BTSs working as on 30.06.2012	
	BSNL	Private Operators
Andhra Pradesh	173	8123
Bihar	349	3539
Jharkhand	1206	7767
Madhya Pradesh	72	262
Chhattisgarh	1216	3884
Maharashtra	354	1169
Odisha	1207	6933
Uttar Pradesh	142	1442
West Bengal	414	3516

Further, BSNL and other private telecom operators augment their mobile network based on techno-commercial considerations.

In addition, a scheme was launched by Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7,353 numbers of infrastructure sites/ towers in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas. Villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage were taken into consideration for installation of the tower under this scheme. Out of these 7,353 towers, 673 Mobile Towers were to set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)/Naxal affected districts of the country and all of these 673 towers have already been installed as per the details given below:

Name of State No of towers set up under the USOF scheme

Andhra Pradesh 27

Bihar 102  
Chhattisgarh 240  
Jharkhand 162  
Madhya Pradesh 12  
Maharashtra 34  
Odisha 36  
Uttar Pradesh 25  
West Bengal 35

The towers under USOF scheme have been installed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), GTL Infrastructure Limited, Reliance Communications Infrastructure Limited, KEC International Limited and Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has identified and conveyed to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) 2199 locations in 9 states which are affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and do not currently have any coverage by any service provider. State wise details of these locations are as follows:

Name of State Numbers of towers

Andhra Pradesh 227  
Bihar 184  
Chhattisgarh 497  
Jharkhand 782  
Madhya Pradesh 22  
Maharashtra 60  
Odisha 253  
Uttar Pradesh 78  
West Bengal 96

These locations have been identified for installing towers and mobile equipment keeping in view the security and maintenance considerations. Mobile services shall be available for general public as well as security personnel around these locations. Out of these 2199 sites, BSNL has already installed Towers at 363 locations (3 in Andhra Pradesh, 351 in Chhattisgarh, 3 in Maharashtra and 6 in Madhya Pradesh).

It has been proposed to seek approval of the Cabinet to extend USOF Subsidy Support to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on nomination basis, for providing & managing Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. Draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to concerned Ministries. Department of Expenditure has recommended that the proposal be formulated for appraisal of the EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee). Planning Commission has suggested that 'before giving the work to BSNL on nomination basis, it may be prudent to float a tender quickly and if no response is received then take up this work on nomination basis through BSNL'. Meanwhile, Telecom Commission has desired Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) of the project. Ministry of Home Affairs has reiterated their concurrence to nominate BSNL for implementation of this project. The DFR has been submitted by BSNL.

(d) & (e) The traffic handling capacity of BTSs for both BSNL and private operators is adequate at present. However, the augmentation of the network is a continuous process.