

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1464

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF MOBILE TELEPHONE

Gopalakrishnan Shri R.;Innocent Shri ;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai;Rajoria Dr. Manoj;Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet;Sawant Shri Arvind Ganpat;Senthilnathan Shri PR.

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

- (a) the existing percentage of communication network available in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the growth rate of mobile subscriber during the last three years and the current year and the percent increase thereon, year-wise and State-wise separately in rural and urban areas;
- (c) the districts/villages covered and those yet to be covered, by mobile connectivity, State-wise;
- (d) the action plan prepared by the Government to provide mobile connectivity to all villages and the timeframe fixed therefor;
- (e) whether Government is facing hurdles in providing telecom infrastructure in rural areas and delay has resulted in cost escalation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The total number of telephone subscribers and number of telephone subscribers per 100 persons in the country is as detailed in Annexure-1.
- (b) The growth rate of mobile subscriber during the last three years and the current year and the percent increase thereon, year-wise and Licence Service Area (LSA)-wise separately in rural and urban areas is as given in Annexure-2.
- (c)& (d) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the country that do not have mobile coverage. State-wise detail of total and uncovered villages is at Annexure-3. The Government, through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), would provide mobile services in uncovered areas in a phased manner over a period of five years.
- (e) & (f) There has been delay in the implementation of National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) Programme in providing telecom infrastructure in rural areas due to the following reasons:
  - (i) Project is of a mega nature widely dispersed across the country and to reach optical fibre to the unreached areas, which are rural and remote. Survey work to ascertain the total length of incremental OFC to be laid has been significantly completed and this has been a fairly time consuming process for the 3 participating Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs), namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation India Ltd (PGCIL)
  - (ii) Supply constraints with a given set of suppliers to meet the vast demands of material requirement of large NOFN project.
  - (iii) Constraints in timely availability of labour and contractors for trenching and cable laying in different parts of the country given the high volume of work of NOFN at rates within reasonable limits of estimated rates.

The Government, for expeditious implementation of the NOFN project is taking following steps:

- (i) Execution of project in a phased manner to learn and improve from experiences of project implementation.
- (ii) Multi-pronged strategy for execution of work being adopted for accelerated implementation of the project.
- (iii) Regular monitoring and review of the project at various levels.