

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2023

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016

Telecom and Internet Services

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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.

(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.

State-wise details of Rural and Urban Tele-density

<pre>
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

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Annexure-II

<pre>
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

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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 SSSL (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

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Annexure-IV

State-wise list of Uncovered Villages

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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

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Annexure-V

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

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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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Annexure-VI

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

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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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Annexure-VII

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

<pre>
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
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