

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016

Telephone and Broadband in Rural Areas

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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether BSNL is the sole service provider offering broadband and landline and mobile services in some areas in the country where private players are yet to penetrate;

(b) if so, the details of such areas, State-wise;

(c) whether at a time when the Central Government is giving a major push to the Digital India programme, many villages are yet to be connected with telecom facilities by BSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that BSNL provide broadband and mobile/landline services in left out area and also increase the Internet speed where the company is already providing Internet broadband services?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) State-wise details of villages covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with mobile facility along with rural BTS (Base Transceiver Station) working, villages covered with VPT (Village Panchayat Telephone) facility and villages covered with broadband service are given at Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively. The details of areas where BSNL is the sole provider offering broadband and landline and mobile services are not maintained by BSNL/Government.

(c) to (e) In order to provide telecom facilities to uncovered villages following initiatives have been taken by Government through BSNL in rural areas:

i. BSNL is providing wireline broadband services covering 651 out of 656 District Headquarters (DHQ), 6137 out of 6454 Block Headquarters (BHQ) and more than 173000 villages have been covered with broadband facility.

ii. Government of India has planned to provide broadband facility to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in phased manner. Under first phase of project, 1 lakh GPs are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by March, 2017. As on 20.11.2016, OFC has been laid to 63,631 GPs with a total length of 1,45,693 km. Out of these, 14,009 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity. In second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs by September, 2018.

iii. 2186 mobile towers have been set up in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected states.

iv. Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region (NER) with an estimated cost of Rs.5336.18 crores which is funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). 6673 mobile towers are planned to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages. 321 mobile towers along National Highways in NER are also planned.

v. 7317 mobile towers have been installed with financial support from USOF under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for the villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage.

vi. 6,56,345 broadband connections have been provided and 15,671 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas under agreement between USOF with BSNL for Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme towards providing broadband connection by using existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network.

vii. BSNL has undertaken following steps to strengthen broadband network and increase internet speed:

1) Augmentation of Broadband core network links.

2) Peering with many content providers.

3) Installation of Catching Server in BSNL Network

4) Augmentation of Broadband Network traffic carrying capacity by upgradation of various equipments involved in delivering Internet Services.

Annexure-I

State/Circle wise details of Village covered with Mobile services (as on 30.9.2016)

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Sl No. Name of circle/ Metro Distt. Total Villages in country Total no of Villages covered Total Rural 2G BTS working

1 Andaman & Nicobar 501 323 101  
 2 Andhra Pradesh 27800 22633 4774  
 3 Assam 26395 20291 848  
 4 Bihar 44874 28045 2224  
 5 Chennai 1544 1515 363  
 6 Chhattisgarh 19567 12306 1233  
 7 Gujarat 18309 13238 2494  
 8 Haryana 6,841 4,475 1,606  
 9 Himachal Pradesh 19786 16930 947  
 10 Jammu & Kashmir 6652 5289 726  
 11 Jharkhand 29354 22021 1271  
 12 Karnataka 29340 22022 3233  
 13 Kerala 1489 1489 3772  
 14 Kolkata 437 437 0  
 15 Madhya Pradesh 51929 30470 2181  
 16 Maharashtra 44010 20972 4574  
 17 North East I 8646 2799 494  
 18 North East II 9514 5205 497  
 19 Odisha 51313 27872 2163  
 20 Punjab 12313 11321 2090  
 21 Rajasthan 41353 26343 2655  
 22 Tamil Nadu 13595 12162 2763  
 23 Uttar Pradesh (East) 80573 71766 3849  
 24 Uttar Pradesh (West) 23781 14255 1662  
 25 Uttarakhand 16853 13485 711  
 26 West Bengal 38405 25516 1829  
 Total 6,25,174 4,33,180 49,060  
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Annexure – II

State/Circle wise details of villages covered/ yet to be covered with VPT facility  
(as on 30.09.2016)

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No. Name of

Circle No. of villages assigned for VPT facility as per census 2001 No. of villages yet to be covered with VPT facility

1 Andaman & Nicobar 501 149  
 2 Andhra Pradesh 26613 1491  
 3 Assam 25124 432  
 4 Bihar 39032 91  
 5 Chhattisgarh 19744 1416  
 6 Gujarat 18159 58  
 7 Haryana 6764 86  
 8 Himachal Pradesh 17495 86  
 9 Jammu & Kashmir 6417 30  
 10 Jharkhand 29354 514  
 11 Karnataka 27481 30  
 12 Kerala 1372 0  
 13 Madhya Pradesh 52117 131  
 14 Maharashtra 41442 726  
 15 North East I 7347 328  
 16 North East II 7456 1209  
 17 Odisha 47529 2184  
 18 Punjab 12301 236  
 19 Rajasthan 39753 83  
 20 Tamil Nadu 15492 0  
 21 Uttar Pradesh (East) 74161 16  
 22 Uttar Pradesh (West) 23781 74  
 23 Uttarakhand 15761 135  
 24 West Bengal 38405 834  
 Total 593601 10339  
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Annexure III

Status of Broadband Service coverage in Telecom Circles as on 31-10-2016

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| S. No. | Circle               | District | HQ     | Block  | HQ   | Villages | Total Covered | Total Covered | Total Covered |
|--------|----------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Andaman & Nicobar    | 3        | 3      | 7      | 5    | 501      | 120           |               |               |
| 2      | Andhra Pradesh       | 23       | 23     | 1126   | 1126 | 27800    | 13125         |               |               |
| 3      | Assam                | 27       | 26     | 219    | 179  | 26395    | 6995          |               |               |
| 4      | Bihar                | 38       | 38     | 534    | 454  | 44874    | 8043          |               |               |
| 5      | Chhattisgarh         | 27       | 27     | 146    | 141  | 19567    | 4315          |               |               |
| 6      | Chennai              | 3        | 3      | 27     | 27   | 1544     | 1544          |               |               |
| 7      | Gujarat              | 33       | 33     | 161    | 161  | 18309    | 7970          |               |               |
| 8      | Haryana              | 21       | 21     | 119    | 119  | 6841     | 4630          |               |               |
| 9      | Himachal Pradesh     | 12       | 12     | 78     | 77   | 19786    | 8163          |               |               |
| 10     | Jammu & Kashmir      | 22       | 22     | 143    | 92   | 6652     | 2533          |               |               |
| 11     | Jharkhand            | 24       | 24     | 211    | 211  | 29354    | 2736          |               |               |
| 12     | Karnataka            | 30       | 30     | 176    | 176  | 29340    | 11235         |               |               |
| 13     | Kerala               | 14       | 14     | 152    | 152  | 1489     | 1367          |               |               |
| 14     | Kolkatta             | 5        | 5      | 19     | 19   | 437      | 0             |               |               |
| 15     | Madhya Pradesh       | 51       | 51     | 313    | 313  | 51929    | 6142          |               |               |
| 16     | Maharashtra          | 36       | 36     | 362    | 362  | 44010    | 11290         |               |               |
| 17     | North East-I         | 19       | 19     | 112    | 75   | 8646     | 535           |               |               |
| 18     | North East-II        | 40       | 36     | 181    | 80   | 9514     | 1889          |               |               |
| 19     | Odisha               | 30       | 30     | 314    | 314  | 51313    | 10093         |               |               |
| 20     | Punjab               | 24       | 24     | 138    | 138  | 12313    | 10021         |               |               |
| 21     | Rajasthan            | 33       | 33     | 247    | 247  | 41353    | 5672          |               |               |
| 22     | Tamil Nadu           | 31       | 31     | 362    | 362  | 13595    | 9380          |               |               |
| 23     | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 48       | 48     | 582    | 582  | 80573    | 25763         |               |               |
| 24     | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 27       | 27     | 239    | 239  | 23781    | 3753          |               |               |
| 25     | Uttarakhand          | 13       | 13     | 95     | 95   | 16853    | 2923          |               |               |
| 26     | West Bengal          | 22       | 22     | 391    | 391  | 38405    | 12831         |               |               |
|        | Total                | 656      | 651    | 6454   | 6137 | 625174   | 173068        |               |               |
|        | %age of coverage     | 99.24%   | 95.09% | 27.68% |      |          |               |               |               |

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