

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1838
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Telecom Services in Villages
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government for provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas of the country;
- (b) the details of the villages connected with the telecom services under the said schemes/programmes so far across the country, State-wise and scheme/ programme-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds sanctioned and utilized under the said schemes/ programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme/ programme-wise; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide telecom services in each village of the country along with the achievements thereof?

Answer

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

(a),(b) & (d) The details of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas of the country are given below:

(i) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER): 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 providing 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). The State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(ii) Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas: The Government had sanctioned a project to install mobile towers at 2199 locations with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 10 States, which are affected by the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). In addition, to increase the coverage in LWE affected areas, Government has sanctioned additional 156 locations for provision of Mobile Services. The State-wise details are at Annexure-II.

(iii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands: Telecom Commission has given 'in principle' approval on 07.11.2014 for Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands with a total estimated investment of Rs. 221.05 crore, which consists of the following components:

- (a) Rs 91.16 crores for providing 2G (voice) coverage in uncovered villages.
(b) Rs 9.40 crores for providing seamless 2G (voice) connectivity along NH.
(c) Rs 20 crores for augmentation of OFC Network.
(d) Rs 100.49 crores for augmentation of Satellite system.

(iv) BharatNet: National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by November 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. A state-of-the-art future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks and with for 5G services and Internet of Things era with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. State-wise status of BharatNet is at Annexure -III.

(c) The details of the funds sanctioned and utilized under the schemes/programmes during the last three years and the current year is

at Annexure-IV.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of Mobile Coverage of Uncovered villages in NER

```
<pre>
S.
N. States Mobile Coverage of Uncovered villages in NER Mobile Coverage along National Highway in NER Transmission Media Plan
in NER Consolidated
No. of uncovered villages No. of Tower Planned to be installed Total Cost (Rs. In Crore) No. of Towers planned to be installed Total
Cost (Rs. in Crore) Total length of OFC to be laid (kms) Total cost (Rs. in Crore) (OFC & Eqpt) Total Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1 Arunachal Pradesh 2805 1893 1298.82 149 126.64 1587 136.44 1561.90
2 Assam 2503 1874 1489.57 33 27.53 228 25.09 1542.19
3 Manipur 528 384 291.52 53 44.21 172 16.31 352.04
4 Meghalaya 2374 2162 1368.44 11 9.18 124 12.77 1390.39
5 Mizoram 252 227 201.37 19 15.85 747 65.26 282.48
6 Nagaland 134 112 99.47 48 40.04 154 17.57 157.08
7 Tripura 2 2 2.54 7 5.84 76 10.98 19.36
8 Sikkim 23 19 18.36 1 0.83 126 11.55 30.74
Total 8621 6673 4770.08 321 270.13 3213 295.97 5336.18
</pre>
```

Annexure-II

State-wise details of Locations identified by MHA

```
<pre>
S. N. State No. of Total Locations identified by MHA No. of Mobile Towers Installed No. of additional 156 towers Number of villages
connected
1. Andhra Pradesh 54 54 8 74
2. Bihar 184 184 66 251
3. Chhattisgarh 497 490 35 669
4. Jharkhand 782 782 34 1067
5. Maharashtra 60 60 5 82
6. Madhya Pradesh 22 22 0 30
7. Odisha 253 248 8 338
8. Telangana 173 173 0 236
9. Uttar Pradesh 78 78 0 106
10. West Bengal 96 96 0 131
Total 2,199 2,187 156 2984
</pre>
```

</pre>

Annexure-III

State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017

```
<pre>
S.N. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I Pipe laid (kms.) Cable laid (in kms) No. of GPs where Pipe laid No. of GPs
where Cable laid GPs
Lit
1 Assam 1533 3799 4158 1420 1348 354
2 Bihar 5754 12199 12940 4967 4742 711
3 Chhattisgarh 4104 10213 7873 3304 3159 1289
4. Haryana 6020 9776 10993 5907 5801 894
5. Jammu & Kashmir 388 427 388 214 200 0
6. Karnataka 6092 11784 12193 6026 6010 4826
7. Kerala 977 720 830 1129 1129 1129
8. Madhya Pradesh 12655 35904 31113 12026 11643 3599
9. Maharashtra 15301 26696 25129 12664 11843 1992
10. Punjab 8049 9810 9153 6989 6745 637
11. Rajasthan 8194 21069 20268 7114 7046 1725
12. Uttar Pradesh 27974 48556 44678 25363 23409 2785
13. Uttarakhand 1863 2792 2636 1503 1463 431
14. West Bengal 2637 5175 4876 1822 1791 231
15. Andaman & Nicobar 69 0 0 0 0 0
16. Chandigarh 12 18 19 12 12 12
</pre>
```

17. Arunachal Pradesh 863 1558 656 609 220 0
18. Nagaland 994 2614 1475 831 462 0
19. Manipur 904 333 232 154 122 26
20. Mizoram 763 735 438 125 73 0
21. Tripura 1021 1688 1584 834 810 79
22. Meghalaya 1208 1212 525 433 191 0
23. Gujarat 6905 10518 9542 5046 4478 1018
24. Puducherry 98 82 92 98 98 101
25. Andhra Pradesh 1673 2627 766 520 283 0
26. Telangana 2017 4538 4462 2038 2038 206
27. Odisha 3860 8121 7970 3109 3108 517
28. Jharkhand 2713 5012 4669 1864 1775 529
29. Himachal Pradesh 252 513 481 155 153 56
30. Daman & Diu 15 0 0 0 0 0
31. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 20 0 0 0 0 0
32. Sikkim 52 0 0 0 0 0
33. Lakshadweep 10 0 0 0 0 0
34. Tamil Nadu 0 0 0 0 0 0
35. Goa* - - - - -
Total 124127 238489 220139 106276 100152 23147

</pre>

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre

Annexure-IV

<pre>
Scheme /Programme-wise funds utilized under the USOF schemes during each of the last three years and current financial year (April 2017 till date)

USOF Figures in Crore

| S. N. | Schemes/ Programmes | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | BharatNet | 1351.86 | 2415.10 | 5600.00 | 00 |
| 2 | Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas | 596.51 | 617.05 | 280.68 | 39.49 |
| 3 | Satellite Augmentation(Andaman & Nicobar Islands) | 00 | 8.10 | 00 | 00 |
| 4 | Satellite Augmentation(Lakshadweep Islands) | 00 | 00 | 4.65 | 00 |

</pre>
