

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD JANUARY, 2018
BSNL MOBILE CONNECTIVITY**

2744. SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that BSNL mobile connectivity in rural and remote areas of North East particularly in the State of Assam is very poor and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether other private mobile operators have better connectivity in rural and urban areas particularly on national highways;
- (c) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to improve the mobile service in the State of Assam; and
- (d) the details of BSNL mobile tower established in the State to improve the mobile phone connectivity, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of mobile service providers, against the benchmarks for various quality of service parameters laid down by the Authority through Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, through Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) submitted by service providers for the service area as a whole.

As per PMR for the quarter ending September 2017, submitted by service providers for 2G and 3G services, it is seen that all the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for the parameters "call drop rate/Circuit Switch Voice drop rate (benchmark $\leq 2\%$)" and only M/s Aircel is under non-compliance with the benchmark for 2G and 3G network for parameter "worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH (Traffic Channel) drop (benchmark $\leq 3\%$)" in Assam Service area.

Even though meeting all parameters of QoS benchmarks, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been expanding the coverage and capacity of mobile networks through Phase-VII and Phase-VII+ expansion projects during last few years in North East and Assam based on techno-economical viability.

Government has approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER) including Assam. The project envisages for providing mobile coverage to 2503 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 1874 mobile towers, installation of 33 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the Assam. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs.1542.19 crore for Assam to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

1544 numbers of 2G BTS(Base Transceiver Station) and 1020 numbers of 3G Node-B of BSNL are working in Assam state. District wise detail of BTSs established by BSNL in Assam state is at **Annexure**.

Contd...2/-

Annexure

District wise detail of 2G and 3G BTSs of BSNL, established in Assam state:

District	2G (BTS)	3G (NodeB)	Total
BAKSA	24	13	37
BARPETA	52	34	86
BONGAIGAON	29	22	51
CACHAR	116	86	202
CHIRANG	10	4	14
DARRANG	51	13	64
DHEMAJI	20	8	28
DHUBRI	47	26	73
DIBRUGARH	104	72	176
DIMA HASAO	2	0	2
GOALPARA	34	14	48
GOLAGHAT	52	31	83
HAILAKANDI	35	20	55
JORHAT	79	57	136
KAMRUP	111	70	181
KAMRUP (METRO)	210	226	436
KARBI ANGLONG	41	21	62
KARIMGANJ	45	27	72
KOKRAJHAR	27	15	42
LAKHIMPUR	22	7	29
MORIGAON	30	11	41
NAGAON	133	79	212
NALBARI	31	19	50
NORTH CACHAR HILLS	14	9	23
SIVASAGAR	77	47	124
SONITPUR	73	38	111
TINSUKIA	57	44	101
UDALGURI	18	7	25
Grand Total	1544	1020	2564
