

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1962
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th MARCH, 2018**

MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

†1962. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of villages and some urban areas in Maharashtra are yet to be connected with mobile telephones and internet;
- (b) if so, the details of such villages and urban areas;
- (c) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the States, circle-wise;
- (d) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges likely to be installed in these States; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to provide mobile/telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas in the States?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) There are no urban areas in Maharashtra which are yet to be connected by mobile and internet connectivity however, there are 4,710 villages in Maharashtra State which are yet to be connected with mobile connectivity.
- (c) The details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the License Service Areas (LSAs) are at **Annexure-I**.
- (d) The decision for installation of mobile towers and telephone exchanges by any Telecom Service Provider (TSP) is an ongoing process and is dependent on various factors like commercial viability, subscriber concentration, technology to be adopted etc.
- (e) At present, the Department has the following programmes for provision of telecom services in left out villages/areas of the country:

(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) to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installing 6673 mobile towers and 321 mobile towers along with National Highways.

(ii) Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:

Department has received a list of 4,072 mobile locations from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected areas. Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 21.12.2017, has recommended the proposal for installing 4072 mobile towers, for which Cabinet approval is being sought.

(iii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands: Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan to provide mobile coverage in 172 uncovered villages and along National Highways and to augment the Satellite Bandwidth for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(iv) BharatNet: BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country.

Contd...2/-

ANNEXURE-I

S.No	Name of License Service Area (LSA)	No. of Towers of all Telecom Service Providers	No of BSNL/MTNL Telephone Exchanges
1	Andhra Pradesh	36213	3083
2	Assam	10386	564
3	Bihar	32242	1672
4	Delhi	21375	348
5	Gujarat	26717	2381
6	Himachal Pradesh	4982	941
7	Haryana	10270	1017
8	Jammu & Kashmir	8080	305
9	Karnataka	28147	2789
10	Kerala	16015	1308
11	Maharashtra (including Mumbai LSA)	51022	4699
12	Madhya Pradesh	30937	3014
13	North-East	6634	402
14	Odisha	15682	1083
15	Punjab	18305	1457
16	Rajasthan	24725	2008
17	Tamil Nadu	38864	2346
18	Uttar Pradesh (East)	29654	2113
19	Uttar Pradesh (West)	24386	1392
20	West Bengal (including Kolkata LSA)	28523	1872
	Total	463159	34794
