

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2018**

MOBILE TOWERS IN MADHYA PRADESH

†3606. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken/being taken by the Government to install mobile towers in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh which are still deprived of them and the time by when the communication revolution is likely to be realised in such far flung areas; and
- (b) the time by which Digital India Programme is likely to achieve its objectives?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Government is making all efforts to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all inhabited areas of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), total tele-density of wireless subscribers in Madhya Pradesh License Service Area, comprising of States of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh, has shown an improvement from 56.06 % in March 2014 to 66.10 % in March 2018. Rural wireless tele-density has proportionally increased from 33.67 % to 43.69 %.

Out of 51929 inhabited villages in the State, 46371 villages are provided with mobile services, as on 28th July 2018 (based on 2018 survey). Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and sparsely populated areas in the State pose some challenges for installation & operations of mobile networks on sustainable basis.

Hence, the Government has been providing necessary support through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to establish telecom facilities in un-connected areas of the State. As a result, 22 BTS have been already installed under Phase-I of Scheme for mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and approval for additional 26 tower-locations under Phase-II has been accorded.

As part of on-going Bharat-Net project to connect 250,000 GPs in the country, Optical Fiber Cable has been laid to connect 12685 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State out of which 12661 GPs are service-ready, as on 29th July 2018. This infrastructure is available to all TSPs on non-discriminatory basis.

BSNL is also expanding its mobile network by undertaking addition of 3021 BTS for 2G/3G services, of which 1120 have been installed by 30th June 2018.

(b) The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) envisages Mission 'Connect India' for creating a robust digital communication infrastructure by providing universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen, 10 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and public Wi-Fi hotspots to reach 10 million by the year 2022. The Mission is aimed at promoting Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.
