

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.203  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**COMMUNICATION NETWORK COVERAGE**

\*203. SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding the percentage of coverage of communication network in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise in respective States; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the communication network coverage in remote/forest regions of the said States?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*203 FOR 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 ON “COMMUNICATION NETWORK COVERAGE”.**

(a) & (b) Communication network basically includes communication infrastructure, coverage, and telephone and internet penetration. As licenses to the operators are given service area wise, therefore the data is also maintained in the Department service area wise and not district wise. The details regarding Towers, Base Transceiver Station (BTS), and telephone and internet connections in the service areas of Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West) and Bihar (which includes Jharkhand service area) are given as under:

Service Area	No. of Towers	No. of BTS	Total telephone connections (in millions, as on October 2018)	Teledensity (in %)	Internet connections(in millions as on September 2018)
Uttar Pradesh (East)	30693	130631	107.09	70.10*	38.18
Uttar Pradesh (West)	26358	105560	59.75		27.78
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	36147	107305	87.70	61.90	32.73
All India	506746	2007568	1192.13	91.18	560.01

\* Teledensity calculated for the State as a whole as the population for UP (East) and UP (West) is not available separately.

Source: TRAI and DoT

(c) The Department is implementing projects to provide mobile connectivity in remote and rural uncovered areas. A project to provide mobile service in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected areas including Jharkhand is being implemented. Under Phase-I, out of 2355 tower locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2341 towers have been commissioned which includes 78 towers in Uttar Pradesh and 816 towers in Jharkhand. The Government has decided to install 179 towers in UP and 1054 in Jharkhand under Phase-II of the project.

The Department is also implementing the flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country through optimal mix of media like optical fibre cable (OFC), satellite and radio. Phase I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh GPs has been completed in December 2017. Phase II of the project is under implementation.

As on 16.12.2018, a total of 2544 GPs in Jharkhand and 29860 GPs in Uttar Pradesh have been connected with optical fibre cable of which 2312 GPs in Jharkhand and 27940 GPs in Uttar Pradesh have been made service ready.

As part of BharatNet project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is envisaged to be provided at all the GPs in the country. On an average, five Access Points (APs) are envisaged to be provided at each GP. Of the five APs, three APs are for Government institutions and two APs for public places.

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