

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JANUARY, 2019**

MOBILE AND LANDLINE SERVICES

†3625. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mobile and landline services are not available uniformly across the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether both services are very unsatisfactory particularly in villages and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve telecom infrastructure in this regard and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Report for the quarter ending 30th September 2018, total number of wireless subscribers in the country are about 117 Crore, of which rural subscribers are over 52 Crore. Total number of landline subscribers are over 2.2 Crore, of which 31.6 lakh are rural subscribers.

Wireless tele-density in the country has increased from 74.55 in September 2014 to 89.51 in September 2018 and rural wireless tele-density has increased from 44.32 to 58.49 during this period. The comparative tele-density figures for various License Service Areas (LSAs) for September 2014 and September 2018 are given at **Annexure-I**.

The difficult geographical terrain, sparsely populated villages with average population size < 1000, low level of economic activities, insurgency etc. pose techno-commercial challenges in making available mobile services on universal basis. Out of total 597618 inhabited villages in the country, 43088 are yet to be connected. State/ Union Territory-wise details of such villages are given at **Annexure-II**.

(b) The Quality of Services related to network performance benchmarks for both mobile and landline services are assessed by TRAI for LSA as a whole and data is not available separately for urban and rural areas. As per TRAI Report for quarter ending

September 2018, most Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) comply with prescribed Quality of Service benchmarks for both Mobile and Landline services.

(c) The Government is making all efforts along with the stakeholders to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all inhabited areas of the country. TSPs have been using a mix of technologies to provide access to the telecom services throughout the country.

The Government has prioritised the provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, North-Eastern States and Islands in the first phase. With support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), following main schemes are under implementation:

- (i) Under BharatNet project, a total of 1,20,224 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by laying 3,03,560 Km OFC and installation of equipment has been completed at 1,16,543 GPs, as on 16th December 2018.
The OFC-based connectivity to GPs is being further extended through deployment of Public Wi Fi Hotspots to provide access of telecom services to multiple users. As on 17th December 2018, public Wi Fi Hotspots have been installed in 39,370 GPs.
- (ii) Scheme for Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in 10 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is being implemented. Under Phase-I of the scheme, 2341 mobile towers are radiating. The Government has already approved Phase II of the Scheme to extend mobile services at 4072 locations in LWE affected areas, as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (iii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) is being implemented for mobile connectivity in North Eastern region (NER) to install 6673 mobile towers for 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers for National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the region.
- (iv) Under CTDP for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, satellite bandwidth has been augmented and submarine cable-based connectivity project is under implementation. It is also planned to set up 167 additional towers to provide mobile coverage in 165 uncovered villages and 42 towers for mobile coverage on entire 129 km of uncovered NH223.
- (v) Similar plans for Lakshadweep Islands are also under implementation.

As a result of continuous efforts by the stakeholders, about 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSSs) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs since July 2015 taking the total BTS count in the country to about 20.07 lakh in November 2018.

**License Service Area-wise, total tele-density in the country
(as on 30th September 2014 and 30th September 2018)**

Sr.	License Service Area	Total Tele-density in September 2014	Total Tele-density in September 2018	Rural Tele-density in September 2014	Rural Tele-density in September 2018
1	Andhra Pradesh	81.06	97.59	47.41	64.87
2	Assam	50.41	64.99	36.15	44.54
3	Bihar	47.66	62.00	29.98	44.86
4	Delhi	232.22	234.97	-	-
5	Gujarat	93.34	109.30	59.82	75.03
6	Himachal Pradesh	109.55	145.10	80.41	118.73
7	Haryana	80.31	97.73	58.76	66.83
8	Jammu & Kashmir	69.98	89.82	46.02	58.56
9	Karnataka	94.20	110.63	44.62	66.06
10	Kerala	95.96	124.78	65.77	77.32
11	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	92.20	108.25	57.98	74.43
12	Madhya Pradesh	57.04	72.23	33.34	45.08
13	North-East	72.00	82.39	44.43	49.95
14	Odisha	63.41	77.02	41.52	61.61
15	Punjab	103.49	125.66	68.52	81.71
16	Rajasthan	76.18	88.06	49.68	62.81
17	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	114.71	117.16	76.76	88.23
18	Uttar Pradesh (East & West)	58.09	70.36	36.25	48.40
19	West Bengal (including Kolkata & Sikkim)	73.40	89.15	47.35	61.14

**Count of villages without telecom facilities in respective
States/ Union Territories (UTs)**

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	No. of inhabited villages as per census 2011	No. of inhabited villages without telecom facilities
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	396	165
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16158	2745
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2215
4.	Assam	25372	915
5.	Bihar	39073	263
6.	Chandigarh	5	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	19567	3563
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65	0
9.	Daman & Diu	19	0
10.	Delhi	103	0
11.	Goa	320	47
12.	Gujarat	17843	1262
13.	Haryana	6642	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	211
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6337	328
16.	Jharkhand	29492	1222
17.	Karnataka	27397	869
18.	Kerala	1017	0
19.	Lakshadweep	6	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5558
21.	Maharashtra	40959	6117
22.	Manipur	2515	877
23.	Meghalaya	6459	2691
24.	Mizoram	704	314
25.	Nagaland	1400	328
26.	Odisha	47677	9940
27.	Punjab	12168	4
28.	Puducherry	90	0
29.	Rajasthan	43264	1402
30.	Sikkim	425	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	15049	83
32.	Telangana	10128	647
33.	Tripura	863	16
34.	Uttarakhand	15745	552
35.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	295
36.	West Bengal	37478	437
	TOTAL	5,97,618	43,088
