

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2672
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2021**

COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN TRIBAL AND LWE AFFECTED AREAS

2672. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tribal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of the country are lagging behind when compared with other parts of the country in communication indicators like tele density, quality of services and network coverage, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the target achieved by the Government in terms of aforementioned communication indicators during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise including the region of Bolangir in Odisha;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any new initiatives for the expansion of telecom services in tribal and LWE affected areas including the region of Bolangir, Odisha;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the funds allocated/released/utilized by the Government in the said regions during the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) against the benchmarks, for various Quality of Service parameters, laid down by TRAI, by way of Quality of Service regulations, issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). The performance is assessed for a License Service Area (LSA) as a whole. Separate information on performance on Quality of Services in District or in a particular area such as Tribal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas is not available.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) does not maintain Tribal/LWE area-wise tele-density data. However, service area-wise rural and urban tele-density for last three years and current year as on dated 31.05.2021, is given at **Annexure-I**.

However, DoT on the basis of a survey carried out in 2020, has estimated that around 5,72,551 out of 5,97,618 inhabited census villages of the country which also includes tribal and LWE affected areas, already have mobile network coverage, while 25,067 inhabited villages do not have the coverage. The Government through TSPs provide mobile network coverage in uncovered villages in the country in a phased manner. State-wise details of number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) installed by TSPs, to increase the mobile network coverage and capacity, in LWE affected districts are given at **Annexure-II**. To increase the mobile network coverage and capacity in Bolangir district of Odisha; 418, 312 & 113 number of BTSs have been installed by TSPs during Financial Year 2019, 2020 & 2021 respectively. Under BharatNet project, 259 number of Gram Panchayats(GP) have also been made service ready during Financial Years 2020 & 2021 in Bolangir, Odisha.

(d) to (f) The Government through various schemes/projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) namely, (i) LWE (Phase-I &II) projects, (ii) Aspirational districts' scheme, (iii) Commissioning of submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity from Chennai to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, (iv) scheme for connecting submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Kochi to Lakshadweep Islands, (v) BharatNet (Phase – I &II) projects, (vi) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region, (vii) Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in uncovered villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of National Highway (NH - 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, etc.; is providing mobile and internet services in rural areas (which also includes tribal and LWE affected areas) in the country. The details of Scheme/Programme-wise disbursement of funds from USOF during the last three financial years (2019 to 2021), is given at **Annexure-III**.

The details of LWE Phase-I & II for the expansion of Telecom Services in LWE affected areas including the region of Bolangir, Odisha are as below:

- For provision of mobile services in LWE affected areas under Phase-I, the project has been completed by installing 2,343 towers. Under LWE Phase-I, mobile towers at Mahakhanda and Magurbeda locations in Bolangir, Odisha have been installed and are providing services.
- For the expansion of Telecom services in tribal and LWE affected areas, Government has approved the LWE Phase-II Scheme. Under this scheme, 2542 number of mobile towers at the locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are to be provisioned, including 483 mobile towers in the State of Odisha (Bolangir is not provisioned under this scheme).

As on dated 09.07.2021, under BharatNet Phase-I & II, a total number of 1,57,919 GPs have been made service ready in the country. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs.

Moreover, DoT has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth, for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/liberalisation of spectrum, permitting passive & active infrastructure sharing, notification of Right of Way Rules - 2016, making government land/buildings available for installations of towers, etc. Nearly, 16.14 lakh additional BTSs for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs during the period from March-2014 (6.49 lakh BTSs) to 27th July 2021 (22.64 lakh BTSs) across the country.

Annexure-I**Annexure-I referred to in Part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2672 for 04.08.2021**

Sr. No.	Service area	31.03.2019		31.03.2020		31.03.2021		31.05.2021	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	Andhra Pradesh	64.96	181.15	66.05	179.35	82.59	125.04	82.71	121.87
2	Assam	42.36	199.72	49.39	170.31	52.82	170.52	53.33	170.50
3	Bihar	45.55	149.09	45.49	142.72	41.54	119.71	41.78	116.44
4	Gujarat	71.11	155.35	70.98	146.32	76.62	123.36	76.01	124.41
5	Haryana	70.82	142.00	71.26	136.37	71.82	128.99	72.06	129.51
6	Himachal Pradesh	114.29	378.46	114.24	395.72	113.87	490.11	113.73	480.36
7	Jammu & Kashmir	56.19	172.73	62.53	168.24	59.18	158.50	59.65	154.00
8	Karnataka	62.23	182.15	74.13	158.84	72.96	148.59	74.60	143.73
9	Kerala	76.85	272.53	76.55	261.98	199.48	101.18	202.58	101.78
10	Madhya Pradesh	44.12	137.10	43.77	134.83	43.46	133.59	43.33	134.27
11	Maharashtra	68.34	133.80	68.16	130.05	67.92	147.49	67.15	147.20
12	North East	44.30	198.62	53.33	168.53	61.61	119.74	62.43	118.32
13	Odisha	60.27	144.73	62.62	137.98	62.73	147.63	63.54	145.72
14	Punjab	78.37	181.51	78.56	176.04	76.05	189.54	74.98	190.39
15	Rajasthan	57.60	171.59	61.34	161.97	62.36	145.07	62.09	141.94
16	Tamil Nadu	85.94	135.30	98.80	124.90	68.67	143.05	68.40	143.33
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)								
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	49.22	132.63	45.22	134.86	51.18	120.84	50.91	121.37
19	West Bengal	54.19	172.51	49.67	174.12	54.93	113.53	54.79	116.42
20	Kolkata	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
21	Delhi	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
22	Mumbai	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
	All- India	57.50	159.66	57.87	153.68	60.17	141.29	60.14	140.30

Rural and Urban breakup of population of Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai service area is not available.

Annexure-II referred to in Part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2672 for 04.08.2021

Number of BTSs installed by TSPs in LWE affected Districts				
S. No.	Name of the State	Financial Year-wise Number of BTSs installed by TSPs in LWE affected Districts		
		2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	7065	4172	2460
2	Bihar	9257	6890	3558
3	Chhattisgarh	4371	1174	2738
4	Jharkhand	8861	6212	4271
5	Madhya Pradesh	672	512	133
6	Maharashtra	1402	1010	505
7	Odisha	3570	2607	1423
8	Telangana	2913	1327	771
9	Uttar Pradesh	1448	1548	899
10	West Bengal	543	300	102
11	Kerala	2754	1515	1046

Annexure-III referred to in Part (d) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2672 for 04.08.2021

Scheme/Programme-wise disbursement of funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund during last three Financial years (2019 to 2021)				
Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Figures in Crore (Rs.)		
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi at Rural Exchanges of BSNL	---	128.45	115.64
2	BharatNet	4145.54	1657.74	5919.79
3	Impact Assessment	---	0.15	---
4	Provision of Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas	414.31	459.79	305.03
5	Mobile Services in Assam & Sikkim (BAL)	---	170.25	93.53
6	Mobile Services in NER (BHL)	---	182.85	187.25
7	Village Public Telephones in uncovered villages (New VPT-2)	8.48	22.15	0.02
8	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fibre Network in Assam	6.12	---	---
9	Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines installed after 01.04.2007 (RDEL-X)	18.04	---	---
10	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Andaman & Nicobar	56.00	38.06	27.84
11	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep	39.66	---	22.86
12	Provision of Submarine OFC connectivity in A&N Islands	93.25	259.22	512.80
13	Setting up Ten 2G BTS in Lakshadweep	---	---	9.21
14	354 uncovered villages	---	---	0.52
15	Setting up of Wi-Fi at Railway Stations by Rail Tel	2.01	0.91	5.46
16	Rural Wireline Broadband	4.81	6.41	0.06
	Grand Total	4788.22	2926.00	7200.00
