

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1543  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**TELEPHONE SERVICES IN ODISHA**

**1543. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether around 43,000 villages in the country including 9940 villages in the State of Odisha do not have access to telephone services and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of these service at the earliest alongwith the time by which it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that 27,721 villages in the country including 6549 villages in the State of Odisha do not have access to mobile services. The State/Union Territories-wise list of uncovered villages is at Annexure. The reasons for not having mobile services in these villages include, inter-alia, remote and tough terrain, areas diversely located with scattered population and commercially non-viable operations. Mobile coverage in such villages is being provided by the Government and TSPs in a phased manner. Following projects are approved for providing/facilitating mobile services in these inhabited villages:

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2,355 towers at a cost of Rs. 3,591.22 crore have been installed by Government of India of which, 261 towers are in Odisha. Under LWE Phase-II project, installation of 2,217 mobile towers at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,194.83 crore has been approved for providing mobile connectivity including 158 mobile towers in the State of Odisha;
- (ii) Mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 384.01 crore;
- (iii) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and alongwith National Highways and to augment transmission network;
- (iv) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (v) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (vi) Mobile connectivity has been enhanced in Lakshadweep Islands by installing 10 mobile towers;
- (vii) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 4 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (viii) Satellite bandwidth augmentation upto 1.71 Gbps for Lakshadweep Islands.

Annexure referred to in Part (a) &amp; (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1543 for answer on 27.11.2019

**State/ UT wise list of villages regarding coverage of mobile services**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Number of inhabited villages as per census 2011</b>	<b>No. of inhabited villages covered with mobile services</b>	<b>No. of inhabited villages without mobile services</b>
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	396	239	157
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16158	14063	2095
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	3454	1804
4.	Assam	25372	24162	1210
5.	Bihar	39073	38807	266
6.	Chandigarh	5	5	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	19567	17317	2250
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65	65	0
9.	Daman & Diu	19	19	0
10.	NCT of Delhi	103	103	0
11.	Goa	320	297	23
12.	Gujarat	17843	17152	691
13.	Haryana	6642	6641	1
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	17716	166
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6101	5963	138
16.	Jharkhand	29492	28239	1253
17.	Karnataka	27397	26834	563
18.	Kerala	1017	1017	0
19.	Ladakh	236	174	62
20.	Lakshadweep	6	5	1
21.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	48959	2970
22.	Maharashtra	40959	37970	2989
23.	Manipur	2515	1727	788
24.	Meghalaya	6459	4861	1598
25.	Mizoram	704	434	270
26.	Nagaland	1400	1131	269
27.	Odisha	47677	41128	6549
28.	Punjab	12168	12168	0
29.	Puducherry	90	90	0
30.	Rajasthan	43264	42494	770
31.	Sikkim	425	414	11
32.	Tamil Nadu	15049	15021	28
33.	Telangana	10128	10018	110
34.	Tripura	863	855	8
35.	Uttarakhand	15745	15540	205
36.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	97394	419
37.	West Bengal	37478	37421	57
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>597618</b>	<b>569897</b>	<b>27721</b>

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