

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:969

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016

Mobile Connectivity

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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the country particularly in the State of Maharashtra and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this service is likely to be provided particularly in each village in backward and tribal area of the country including said States; and

(d) the estimated funds to be spent by the Government to start this service?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) The Government has proposed/planned various schemes with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and tribal areas of the county including the State of Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Details of such schemes are as below:

(i) 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. 452 mobile towers out of proposed 782 mobile towers in Jharkhand State and 50 mobile towers out of proposed 60 mobile towers in Maharashtra State are radiating as on 15.02.2016.

(ii) On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(iii) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages in the country including 4792 villages in Maharashtra and 5949 villages in Jharkhand that do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Details of the uncovered villages is enclosed as annexure.

Annexure

State-wise list of Uncovered Villages

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Sr.No. Name of the State/UT Total number of inhabited villages No. of Uncovered Villages

|     |                   |       |      |
|-----|-------------------|-------|------|
| 1.  | Andhra Pradesh    | 16335 | 3812 |
| 2.  | Arunachal Pradesh | 5258  | 2886 |
| 3.  | Assam             | 25372 | 2885 |
| 4.  | Bihar             | 39073 | 2534 |
| 5.  | Chhattisgarh      | 19567 | 4041 |
| 6.  | Goa               | 320   | 65   |
| 7.  | Gujarat           | 17843 | 1275 |
| 8.  | Haryana           | 6642  | 2    |
| 9.  | Himachal Pradesh  | 17882 | 2416 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir   | 6337  | 460  |
| 11. | Jharkhand         | 29492 | 5949 |
| 12. | Karnataka         | 27397 | 0    |
| 13. | Kerala            | 1017  | 0    |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh    | 51929 | 5926 |
| 15. | Maharashtra       | 40959 | 4792 |
| 16. | Manipur           | 2515  | 610  |
| 17. | Meghalaya         | 6459  | 2389 |
| 18. | Mizoram           | 704   | 258  |
| 19. | Nagaland          | 1400  | 137  |

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20. Odisha 47675 10398
21. Punjab 12168 91
22. Rajasthan 43264 770
23. Sikkim 425 23
24. Tamil Nadu 15049 113
25. Telangana 10347 1009
26. Tripura 863 2
27. Uttar Pradesh 97814 266
28. Uttarakhand 15745 1876
29. West Bengal 37469 487
30. Andaman & Nicobar 684 190
31. Puducherry 0
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 5
33. Daman & Diu 1
34. Lakshadweep 1
TOTAL 597608 55669
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