

Installation of mobile towers in Uttarakhand

†545. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether installation of towers is under consideration at those places where signals of BSNL are not reaching in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the names of such places where towers would be installed; and
- (c) the reasons for not installing towers at other such places?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that there are 15758 villages in Uttarakhand, out of these 10692 villages are already covered with mobile connectivity. Remaining 5066 villages are yet to be provided with mobile coverage by BSNL. Out of these 5066 uncovered villages, BSNL has planned to provide the mobile coverage in 1339 villages under Phase-VII GSM project which is targeted to be completed by June, 2015 by installing 320 number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations-2G) and 139 Node Bs (3G) out of which 260 BTSs and 105 Node Bs have been commissioned. Details of these 1339 villages are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Out of remaining uncovered 3727 villages where BSNL mobile signals are not available, 1891 villages have mobile coverage through other telecom service providers. However, 1836 villages do not have any mobile connectivity. These are to be provided with mobile services in a phased manner under USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) scheme. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Himalayan states (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) has been taken up under USOF scheme.

Statement

Sl. No.	District	Number of sub-districts	Number of villages to be covered under GSM Phase-VII
1	2	3	4
1.	Almora	3	54
2.	Bageshwar	4	80

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

210	<i>Written Answers to</i>	[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Unstarred Questions</i>
1	2	3	4
3.	Chamoli	4	77
4.	Champawat	3	54
5.	Garhwal	7	442
6.	Hardwar	3	86
7.	Nainital	6	171
8.	Pithoragarh	2	30
9.	Rudraprayag	3	111
10.	Tehri Garhwal	4	85
11.	Udham Singh Nagar	5	71
12.	Uttarkashi	3	78
TOTAL		47	1339

Telephone facility in all Gram Panchayats in Uttarakhand

†546. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facility has been provided in every Gram Panchayat in Uttarakhand;

(b) if not, the block-wise list of those Gram Panchayats of the State which are yet to receive the benefit of telephone facility;

(c) the reasons for which the telephone facility could not be provided to Gram Panchayats; and

(d) by when the telephone service will be made available to the Gram Panchayats deprived of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. All the Gram Panchayats in Uttarakhand have been provided with telephone facility.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.