

Sl. No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
18.	Manipur	123
19.	Meghalaya	122
20.	Mizoram	18
21.	Nagaland	61
22.	Odisha	2402
23.	Puducherry	101
24.	Punjab	6761
25.	Rajasthan	8150
26.	Sikkim	4
27.	Tamil Nadu	0
28.	Telangana	2042
29.	Tripura	489
30.	Uttar Pradesh	26940
31.	Uttarakhand	1361
32.	West Bengal	2020
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
34.	Andhra Pradesh	0
TOTAL		104548

Commissioning of cellular towers to enhance connectivity

2472. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cellular towers commissioned by Government during last year to enhance connectivity;

(b) the number of cellular towers commissioned by Government during last year in Government establishments, along with the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other initiatives taken by Government to ensure connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Government does not commission cellular towers. Government grants licenses to the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) who commission cellular towers as per the roll-out obligations of the license, Quality of Services (QoS) parameters prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and techno-commercial considerations.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited (BSNL), the Government undertaking has commissioned 992 cellular towers during 2016-17 and 297 cellular towers during 2017-18 (upto January 2018). Mahanagar Telephone Nigam limited (MTNL) has commissioned 2 cellular towers during January 2017 to December, 2017.

(b) The number of cellular towers commissioned in Government establishments by BSNL during 2016-17 are 107 and during 2017-18 (upto January 2018) are 37. LSA-wise details are given in Statement (*See* below). MTNL has commissioned both the towers in Government establishments in Delhi during last year.

(c) In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which includes:

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,
- (ii) allowing spectrum sharing, trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,
- (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) leading to addition of around 6.6535 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period- July 2015 to February 2018,
- (vi) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis,
- (vii) BharatNet Project is being implemented in a phased manner to connect all

Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. This infrastructure is accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide affordable broadband services to citizens and institutions in rural areas, in partnership with States and the private sector. The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have shown interest in utilisation of BharatNet network and they are setting up their infrastructure at around 70,000 locations at GPs.

As on 25.02.2018, a total of 1,12,677 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected in Phase-I by laying 2,65,296 km. OFC. The number of Service Ready GPs is 1,03,279. The remaining GPs are planned in phase-II through State Governments, public and private sectors by using an optimal mix of media by March, 2019. MOUs with 08 States namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already been signed.

Statement

Cellular towers installed in Government establishments by BSNL

Circle	During 2016-17	During 2017-18 (upto January 2018)
1	2	3
Haryana	02	00
Himachal Pradesh	00	00
Jammu and Kashmir	05	02
Punjab	00	00
Rajasthan	08	05
Uttaranchal	00	00
Uttar Pradesh East	14	00
Uttar Pradesh West	03	00
Andamand and Nicobar Islands	02	05
Assam	02	01
Bihar	02	01
Kolkata	01	00

1	2	3
Jharkhand	00	00
North East-I	05	03
North East-II	03	00
Odisha	00	00
West Bengal	00	00
Chhattisgarh	00	00
Gujarat	01	00
Maharashtra	00	00
Madhya Pradesh	01	01
Andhra Pradesh	18	00
Chennai	02	02
Kerala	28	08
Karnataka	10	09
Tamil Nadu	00	00
TOTAL	107	37

Ranking of telecom companies

†2473. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is preparing for ranking of telecom companies in order to rid people of the problems like call drop, failure of network, etc.;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step so far in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There is no proposal to rank the telecom service providers (TSPs) in accordance with the Quality of services provided to customers by them.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.