

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1925
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2019**

MOBILE TOWERS IN EVERY PANCHAYAT

†1925. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to install mobile towers in every Panchayat of the country to fulfill the demand of digitalization and strengthen the rural banking system ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide mobile towers in those far-flung villages of the country where these towers are not available till now; and
- (d) the proposed time-line for installing mobile towers in every far-flung villages and each panchayat region of the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government is implementing BharatNet Project to provide broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country.

As per the data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that there are 27,721 inhabited villages (as per the census 2011) in the country which are not covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in such villages is being provided by the Government and the TSPs in a phased manner. The Government has approved the following projects to install mobile towers in uncovered villages of the country:

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-II project, installation of 2,217 mobile towers has been approved for providing mobile connectivity covering the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (ii) Mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas has also been approved;
- (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.
