

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

MOBILE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2612 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 1700 villages in Andhra Pradesh do not have any mobile network connectivity and 3000 villages lack 4G network connectivity;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the lack of mobile connectivity;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide and improve network connectivity in Andhra Pradesh along with the details of the funds released and utilised for the same; and
- (d) whether Government has any alternative mechanism in place to provide public service delivery for services that are currently only available online?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d) In last 9 years , total number of BTSs in Andhra Pradesh License Service Area (LSA) have increased from 53,858 in 2014 to 2,03,683 in 2023. Further, 2,15,722 Km OFC has been laid in Andhra Pradesh, as of June 2023. As per data received from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom's field units and State Governments as of March 2022, out of 17,328 villages (villages are as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019) in Andhra Pradesh, 14,357 villages are covered with mobile connectivity, out of which 14,159 villages are with 4G connectivity.

Government is implementing various schemes for providing mobile coverage in the villages of the country, including the state of Andhra Pradesh. Under various USOF projects, uncovered villages of Andhra Pradesh are being provided 4G connectivity. Under these Projects 36,801 4G mobile towers (including upgradation of 2G/3G Towers) with total expenditure of Rs 35,381 Cr. have been approved to provide 4G mobile connectivity to more than 44,000 villages in the country, out of which around 4,926 villages are from Andhra Pradesh.
