

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 704  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**MOBILE TOWERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

**704 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) number of villages in Andhra Pradesh that do not have mobile towers, district-wise and village-wise;
- (b) in what manner does the Ministry look at the direction given by the Prime Minister to set up mobile towers in all villages by March, 2024;
- (c) to what extent GatiShakti Sanchar is helping in addressing the issues such as non-availability of land, remote locations, etc., in setting up of mobile towers; and
- (d) whether Ministry is, on its course, to comply with the directions given by the PM?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) In last around 10 years, telecom connectivity in Andhra Pradesh License service Area (LSA) has improved significantly. Total number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have increased from 53,858 to 2,07,330. Total mobile subscribers have increased from 6.71 Cr to 8.20 Cr. Internet subscribers have increased from 1.76 Cr. to 6.63 Cr.

At present more than 16,714 BTSs are providing 5G connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and under BharatNet project 12,457 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been provided connectivity.

As of September '2023, out of 17,328 villages of Andhra Pradesh (village data as per Registrar General of India), 15,322 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

(b) to (d) In order to provide telecom connectivity in uncovered villages in the country, the Government has undertaken numerous schemes. Government has planned 41,160 towers in uncovered areas of the country to provide connectivity to more than 54,000 villages at the cost of more than 41,331Cr. Uncovered villages of Andhra Pradesh are included in this.

The GatiShakti Sanchar portal was launched on 14.05.2022 to streamline and fasten Right of Way (RoW) approval for quick deployment of Telecom Infrastructure viz. laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) and erecting Telecom Towers. The portal has onboarded / integrated all 36 States /UTs and

with four central ministries; Ministry of Railways (MoR), Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Ministry of Defense (MoD). The RoW approval time has reduced significantly after the launch of portal.

India has seen one of the fastest roll out of 5G services in the world with 3.99 lakh BTSs deployed in around 738 districts. Also the number of BTS has increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 25.42 Lakh in March-2023.

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