

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 59
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

VILLAGES CONNECTED WITH BROADBAND

59 Shri Kartikeya Sharma:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of villages connected with broadband during the last few years, State-wise;
- (b) the total number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Haryana where broadband services have been started and Wi-Fi hotspots created under the Bharat Net Project; and
- (c) the objectives and achievements under the PM-VANI scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Telecom connectivity in India has improved significantly in last 10 years, outlined as follows:

	May 2014	Dec 2023
Number of Base Transceiver stations	6.49 Lakh	28 Lakh
Optical fiber laid	10.62 Lakh Km	39 Lakh Km
Internet users	25.15 Cr	88.12 Cr
Cost of data	Rs. 269/ Gb	Rs. 9.94/ Gb
Median internet speed	1.3 Mbps	75.8 Mbps
Gram Panchayats connected under BharatNet	58	2.10 Lakh

5G services were launched in India on 1st October 2022. Within a span of 14 months, more than 4.15 Lakh 5G sites are providing connectivity across 742 districts. This is the fastest roll-out of 5G anywhere in the world.

To further improve telecom connectivity in the country, Government is implementing various schemes.

- A total of 41,160 mobile towers have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 41,331 Cr to provide 4G connectivity to about 55 thousand villages.
- Scope of BharatNet program has been expanded to connect all inhabited villages with an outlay of Rs. 1.88 Lakh Cr.

State-wise details of the Gram Panchayats covered in BharatNet and Wi-Fi hotspots are available on DoT website.
