

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2022**

PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS

1221. SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote connectivity in rural areas;
- (b) the details of internet penetration in the country, State-wise including rural and urban areas;
and
- (c) the details of internet penetration in Jharkhand, district-wise?

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

(a) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country in a phased manner. Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance telecom connectivity in the rural areas of the country and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Border areas, Aspirational Districts and Islands. Further, BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages in the country. The list of the major USOF schemes are given in **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) report dated 23.11.2022, the State/UT-wise details of internet penetration in rural and urban areas in the country including the State of Jharkhand and its districts is attached as **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1221 to be answered on 14/12/2022 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Promoting connectivity in rural areas"

List of the major USOF schemes:

- (i) BharatNet project
- (ii) Saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country
- (iii) Provision of 4G mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas under Phase-II
- (iv) Provision of Mobile Services in Uncovered villages in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh (National Highways only) of NER and seamless coverage along National Highway
- (v) Provision of 4G Mobile Services in Uncovered villages of Meghalaya and seamless coverage along National Highway
- (vi) Provision of 4G Mobile Services in Uncovered Villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam
- (vii) Hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth through BSNL for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from BSCCL, Bangladesh via Cox Bazar. Approval has been issued for hiring of additional 10 Gbps International Bandwidth also.
- (viii) Provision of mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas
- (ix) Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States (namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan)
- (x) Remaining 7,287 Aspirational District villages (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha) for provision of 4G mobile services
- (xi) Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (xii) Laying of submarine OFC Connectivity between Mainland India (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands
- (xiii) Public Wi-Fi hotspots at the 25,000 rural telephone exchanges of BSNL

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (b) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1221 to be answered on 14/12/2022 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Promoting connectivity in rural areas"

The State/UT-wise details of internet penetration in the country is as below: -

Sr. No.	State/UT Name	Internet Penetration(%)		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	84.3	130.62	104.56
2	Andhra Pradesh	47.79	83.53	60.68
3	Arunachal Pradesh	38.83	84.57	50.48
4	Assam	32.89	115.02	45.61
5	Bihar	27.07	94.52	35.31
6	Chandigarh	-	64.97	64.97
7	Chattisgarh	32.9	100.08	50.97
8	Dadar & Nagar Haweli and Daman & Diu	99.86	37.26	49.46
9	Goa	160.68	105.23	119.04
10	Gujarat	44.91	100.26	71.7
11	Haryana	46.42	107.63	71.95
12	Himachal Pradesh	54.94	299.05	80.06
13	Jammu & Kashmir	41.31	117.39	64.42
14	Jharkhand	31.44	74.48	42.66
15	Karnataka	48.76	103.52	72.91
16	Kerala	152.61	62.07	85.7
17	Ladakh	73.01	37.44	62.21
18	Lakshdweep	-	123.82	123.82
19	Madhya Pradesh	27.82	102.47	49.41
20	Maharashtra	47.38	113.35	79.27
21	Manipur	39.29	114.22	63.45
22	Meghalaya	42.38	99.38	54.14
23	Mizoram	82.48	94.01	88.8
24	Nagaland	71.09	62.47	67.22
25	NCT of Delhi	-	198.03	198.03
26	Odisha	39.04	87.09	48.05
27	Puduchery	49.68	36.48	40.43
28	Punjab	47.83	130.97	82.4
29	Rajasthan	36.19	108.34	55.32
30	Sikkim	102.39	109.25	105.66
31	Tamil Nadu	43.15	98.64	72.77
32	Telangana	57.29	107.35	80.97
33	Tripura	35.89	60.35	45.3
34	Uttar Pradesh	28.66	95.21	44.59
35	Uttarakhand	52.44	107.85	72.16
36	West Bengal	34.29	97.82	57.49
	Total	37.86	103.27	60.73
