GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 21
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2022

IT SERVICE IN VILLAGES

†21.   SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:
        SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
        SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide Internet and Wi-fi facilities to all the villages in the country for the benefit of the farmers;

(b)   if so, the details thereof, district and State/ UT-wise along with the measures being taken by the Government in this regard including Hazaribagh and Ramgarh districts of Jharkhand;

(c)   the details of the villages that have got access to IT services during the last two years, year-wise and State/UT-wise;

(d)   if so, the details of the measures being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e)   whether the Government also proposes to frame a new policy for making people aware about different kinds of IT services in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country in a phased manner. Government through funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is implementing various schemes for providing mobile internet connectivity in all remaining villages of the country. Further, under BharatNet Project, broadband internet connectivity is provided to all inhabited villages in the country including the villages in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ramgarh of the State of Jharkhand for benefits of citizen including the farmers. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project can be utilized to provide broadband internet services such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, etc. Under BharatNet, 1,84,399 number of GPs are made service ready in the country including 252 GPs of Hazirabh and 142 GPs of Ramgarh districts of state of Jharkhand. The State/UT Wise details of the villages being covered by mobile connectivity by Government and TSPs is attached as **Annexure-I.** The State/UT wise details of the GPs planned and service ready under BharatNet project is attached as **Annexure-II.**

(c) & (d)   Government has implemented the network of Common Services Centres (CSC) under the Digital India Programme. CSC is an important way of extending governance in public services viz Aadhaar Services, Financial Inclusion Services, Educational Services G2C/B2C services, Healthcare services to every citizen. The CSC scheme envisages setting up of at-least one CSC in each of 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country, for delivery of various Government-to-Citizen (G2C) and other citizen-centric e-Services to citizens. It is a self-sustainable entrepreneurship model which is run by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). As on September 2022, total 5,49,465 CSCs are functional across the country out of which, total 4,36,535 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat (GP) level across the country.

(e)   To increase the awareness and digital literacy in the rural areas, Government of India has approved a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2.5 Lakhs GPs across the country are envisaged to register an average of 200-300 candidates.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 21 to be answered on 07/12/2022 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "IT Service in Villages"

	State/UT Wise details of the villages being coverd by Government and TSPs	
Sr. No.	**State/UT Name**	**No. of villages being covered by Government and TSPs**
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	261
2	Andhra Pradesh	2971
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3081
4	Assam	2083
5	Bihar	254
6	Chhattisgarh	1887
7	Chandigarh	NA
8	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	33
9	Goa	41
10	Gujarat	567
11	Haryana	7
12	Himachal Pradesh	1482
13	Jammu And Kashmir	822
14	Jharkhand	2072
15	Karnataka	1121
16	Kerala	53
17	Ladakh	119
18	Lakshadweep	4
19	Madhya Pradesh	3092
20	Maharashtra	3121
21	Manipur	470
22	Meghalaya	2428
23	Mizoram	241
24	Nagaland	420
25	NCT of Delhi	0
26	Odisha	6592
27	Puducherry	1
28	Punjab	10
29	Rajasthan	3316
30	Sikkim	304
31	Tamil Nadu	384
32	Telangana	203
33	Tripura	299
34	Uttar Pradesh	274
35	Uttarakhand	755
36	West Bengal	133
	Total	**38901**

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 21 to be answered on 07/12/2022 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "IT Service in Villages"

State wise / UT wise details of GPs planned and service ready under BharatNet project (as on 28.11.2022):

S. No.	State/UT	Total Planned GPs	Total Service Ready GPs
1	Andaman & Nicobar	70	51
2	Andhra* Pradesh	13420	4281
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1796	769
4	Assam	2665	1511
5	Bihar	8404	8316
6	Chandigarh	12	12
7	Chhattisgarh*	11676	9451
8	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	38
9	Goa#	191	0
10	Gujarat*	14288	14227
11	Haryana	6256	6082
12	Himachal Pradesh	3616	408
13	Jammu & Kashmir	4299	1091
14	Jharkhand*	4399	4335
15	Karnataka	6090	6084
16	Kerala	978	978
17	Ladakh	193	192
18	Lakshadweep	10	9
19	Madhya Pradesh	22841	17776
20	Maharashtra*	28238	23597
21	Manipur	2782	1458
22	Meghalaya	1792	681
23	Mizoram	762	452
24	Nagaland	983	232
25	Odisha*	6796	6779
26	Puducherry	110	98
27	Punjab	13337	12668
28	Rajasthan	11352	8770
29	Sikkim	185	26
30	Tamil Nadu*$	12524	499
31	Telangana*	12769	8716
32	Tripura	1114	727

S. No.	State/UT	Total Planned GPs	Total Service Ready GPs
33	Uttar Pradesh	59365	39818
34	Uttarakhand	7936	1760
35	West Bengal	3348	2507
	Total	**264635**	**184399**

*The Phase-II is being implemented under State-Led model in these States.

*$Tamil Nadu State Government signed the MoU with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) on 31.03.2017 for implementation of BharatNet project. Phase-I of BharatNet was accordingly not taken up in Tamil Nadu and the State's GPs are being implemented in Phase-II under State-Led model.

Goa had its own similar broadband network and thus not taken up under Ph-I & Phase-II of BharatNet Project.

Note: Delhi has no GPs and thus not taken up under BharatNet Project.

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