

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2022**

NUMBER OF VILLAGES NOT CONNECTED WITH INTERNET

220. SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of villages which are not connected with internet services in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the time by which each and every village in the country is expected to get internet connectivity;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated/released/utilized and financial assistance given by the Government during the last three years and the current year for the said purpose, State/UT-wise particularly in the State of UP;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase digital literacy in rural areas; and
- (e) the details of the funds allocated and the financial assistance given by the Government during the last three years and the current year to increase digital literacy?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per data provided from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field unit and State Government as of March '2022, out of 6,44,131 villages (villages are as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019), around 6,05,230 number of villages are having mobile internet connectivity in the country and 38901 villages are not having mobile connectivity. In the State of Uttar Pradesh out of 105531 villages, 1,05,257 number of villages are connected with mobile internet and 274 villages are not having any mobile connectivity. 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. Around Rs 18419.20 Cr. have been disbursed from USOF in last three years and current financial year up to October 2022 in the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) & (e) To increase the 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 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country are envisaged to register an average of 200-300 candidates. As on 2nd December 2022, a total of around 6.59 crore candidates have been enrolled and 5.66 crore have been trained, out of which 4.21 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme. During the last three years viz. 2019-20 , 2020-21 and 2021-22, an amount of Rs.400 crore, Rs. 250 crore and Rs. 300 crore were released respectively for the PMGDISHA Scheme. During the current financial year i.e. 2022-23, Rs. 250 Crore has been allocated for the said scheme.
