

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2395
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2022**

5G INTERNET FACILITY

†2395. **SHRI CHIRAG KUMAR PASWAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which the 5G internet facility will be started in the rest of the cities and villages after its launch in thirteen cities of the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem of mobile connectivity as the benefits of already existing 4G network are not available in many parts of the country;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of towers installed in entire Bihar including Jamui as there are frequent complaints of theft of batteries and other items used to run the tower;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any instructions to BSNL and other service providers to improve their networks in view of network problems being faced in the State including Jamui; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor

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

(a) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have started providing 5G services in the country from 01.10.2022 onwards and as of 26.11.2022, 5G services have started in 50 towns distributed over 14 States/UTs.

As per the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) dated 15-06-2022 for auction of spectrum and the license conditions, the rollout obligations are required to be met over a period of five years, in a phased manner, from the date of allocation of spectrum. Further expansion of mobile networks beyond the mandatory rollout obligations, depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

(b) The Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Crore. The project aims to provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity are planned to be upgraded to 4G. The project is being executed by BSNL

using Atmanirbhar Bharat's 4G technology stack and is funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.

(c) Law and order is a State subject. As per Section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:-
“If any person, intending –

- (i) to prevent or obstruct the transmission or delivery of any message, or
- (ii) to intercept or to acquaint himself with the contents of any message, or
- (iii) to commit mischief,

damages, removes, tampers with or touches any battery, machinery, telegraph line, post or other thing whatever, being part of or used in or about any telegraph or in the working thereof, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine or with both.”

(d) and (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down the Quality of Service (QoS) standards for Basic Telephone Service (Wireline), Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, Broadband Service and Wireless Data Services. Cases where these requisite QoS Standards are not met by the TSPs including BSNL, Show Cause Notices (SCNs) are issued and, if required, financial disincentives are imposed by TRAI.
