

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2351
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2023**

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS

**2351. DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote internet connectivity in rural areas;
- (b) the details of the internet penetration in the country, State-wise including rural and urban areas;
- (c) the details of the internet penetration in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (d) the details of the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan connected with optical-fibre coverage; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to improve internet penetration in rural areas in the coming year and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Internet Connectivity is provided in the country by the Government, the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) through wireless mobile and fixed wireline connections in phased manner. As per data provided from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom's field unit and State Governments as of March '2022, out of 6,44,131 villages (villages are as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019) in the country, around 6,05,230 villages are having mobile internet connectivity. Government has taken various steps to promote internet connectivity through both wireless and wireline modes in rural areas. Some of the initiatives are listed below:

- BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The scope of BharatNet project has now been extended upto villages beyond GPs in the country.
- PM WANI framework aims to accelerate proliferation of internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi Access points in the country.
- USOF 4G Saturation Scheme to cover 24,680 uncovered villages with 4G and 6,279 villages having 2G/3G connectivity are to be upgraded to 4G.
- Scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- Scheme for provisioning of 4G based Mobile service in 7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of 5 States Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha;
- Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands.
- Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- Under LWE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LWE areas which including 96 mobile towers of the State of West Bengal and are providing services. Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations are approved across the LWE States;
- Scheme for providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas;
- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and along with the National Highways;

As per data provided by TRAI, overall internet penetration in the country is 61.62% with 850.95 million internet subscribers. State wise details for rural and urban areas is at **Annexure-I**. Further details of district wise internet connectivity in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is at **Annexure-II**.

Present status of Optical Fibre coverage of GPs in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is as below:

State	No. of GPs made service ready
Uttar Pradesh	45000
Rajasthan	8736

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2351 to be answered on 15.03.2023

State/UT wise number of Internet Subscribers per 100 population in Rural/Urban areas of the country, as of 30th September 2022

S.N.	State(s)	Total Internet Subscribers (In million)			Internet Subscribers per 100 population		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.25	16.20	32.44	47.99	84.24	61.12
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.46	0.33	0.79	39.40	83.48	50.65
3	Assam	10.12	6.39	16.50	33.66	115.78	46.39
4	Bihar	30.49	15.02	45.51	27.58	97.34	36.12
5	Chattisgarh	7.18	8.16	15.34	32.75	100.65	51.08
6	Goa	0.68	1.33	2.00	174.98	111.88	127.43
7	Gujarat	16.46	34.80	51.26	44.93	100.80	72.05
8	Haryana	8.08	13.29	21.37	46.21	105.65	71.09
9	Himachal Pradesh	3.80	2.35	6.15	56.79	306.54	82.51
10	Jharkhand	9.37	7.80	17.17	32.28	76.14	43.73
11	Karnataka	18.55	32.06	50.61	49.25	107.41	74.96
12	Kerala	14.63	16.56	31.19	160.19	62.31	87.33
13	Madhya Pradesh	17.18	26.12	43.30	28.06	104.75	50.26
14	Maharashtra	30.98	69.57	100.55	47.67	114.06	79.81
15	Manipur	0.85	1.24	2.09	39.17	119.79	65.22
16	Meghalaya	1.16	0.70	1.86	43.82	101.14	55.64
17	Mizoram	0.46	0.65	1.11	82.44	96.08	89.93
18	Nagaland	0.88	0.64	1.51	72.02	63.25	68.05
19	Odisha	14.17	7.46	21.63	39.45	89.69	48.89
20	Punjab	8.63	16.87	25.51	48.29	132.11	83.22
21	Rajasthan	21.34	23.69	45.03	36.01	110.60	55.82
22	Sikkim	0.37	0.36	0.74	104.35	110.04	107.09
23	Tamil Nadu incl. Chennai	15.55	40.39	55.94	43.57	98.35	72.88
24	Telangana	11.49	19.95	31.43	57.40	110.26	82.49
25	Tripura	0.93	1.00	1.93	36.69	62.64	46.74
26	Uttar Pradesh (UPE+UPW)	52.09	54.72	106.80	29.19	97.28	45.51
27	Uttarakhand	4.08	4.67	8.75	54.79	112.81	75.50
28	West Bengal incl. Kolkata	21.96	35.82	57.78	35.04	98.94	58.43
Union Territories							
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.20	0.24	0.44	88.52	134.96	108.91
2	Chandigarh	0.04	0.81	0.84	-	-	68.77
3	Dadar & Nagar Haweli (incl. Daman & Diu)	0.24	0.36	0.60	100.94	36.41	48.81

4	Delhi	0.71	42.14	42.85	-	-	202.19
5	Jammu & Kashmir	4.02	4.98	9.00	42.57	120.65	66.33
6	Ladakh	0.17	0.04	0.20	79.62	38.44	67.03
7	Lakshdweep	0.05	0.00	0.06	-	-	82.61
8	Puduchery	0.24	0.42	0.67	49.91	36.97	40.83
Total		343.82	507.13	850.95	38.33	104.77	61.62

Note: No. of total internet subscribers per 100 population is derived from the subscriber data provided by the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and the projection of population from the 'Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011 – 2036'.

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2351 to be answered on 15.03.2023

Rajasthan Coverage Status District wise				
SN	District Name	Total Number of Villages	No of Villages having Mobile coverage	No of Uncovered Villages
1	Ajmer	1128	1103	25
2	Alwar	2067	2006	61
3	Banswara	1540	1477	63
4	Baran	1233	1166	67
5	Barmer	2964	2401	563
6	Bharatpur	1530	1526	4
7	Bhilwara	1910	1843	67
8	Bikaner	946	826	120
9	Bundi	881	860	21
10	Chittaurgarh	1771	1542	229
11	Churu	904	891	13
12	Dausa	1136	1059	77
13	Dhaulpur	834	788	46
14	Dungarpur	1014	967	47
15	Ganganagar	3024	2977	47
16	Hanumangarh	1909	1866	43
17	Jaipur	2264	2161	103
18	Jaisalmer	855	526	329
19	Jalor	822	794	28
20	Jhalawar	1626	1536	90
21	Jhunjhunun	982	893	89
22	Jodhpur	1909	1773	136
23	Karauli	900	808	92
24	Kota	879	868	11
25	Nagaur	1641	1589	52
26	Pali	1047	944	103
27	Pratapgarh	1009	939	70
28	Rajsamand	1084	838	246
29	Sawai Madhopur	825	804	21
30	Sikar	1191	1162	29
31	Sirohi	506	430	76
32	Tonk	1210	1185	25
33	Udaipur	2536	2075	461
	Grand Total	46077	42623	3454

District wise Village coverage-UPE				
S.No.	District Name	Total Number of Villages	No of Villages having Mobile coverage	No of Uncovered Villages
1	Ambedkar Nagar	1740	1740	0
2	Amethi	988	988	0
3	Ayodhya	1226	1226	0
4	Azamgarh	4078	4078	0
5	Bahraich	1390	1380	10
6	Ballia	2357	2357	0
7	Balrampur	1016	997	19
8	Banda	734	734	0
9	Barabanki	1831	1831	0
10	Basti	3273	3273	0
11	Bhadohi	1219	1219	0
12	Chandauli	1635	1625	10
13	Chitrakoot	657	636	21
14	Deoria	2161	2161	0
15	Farrukhabad	992	991	1
16	Fatehpur	1512	1512	0
17	Ghazipur	3374	3374	0
18	Gonda	1821	1821	0
19	Gorakhpur	3267	3267	0
20	Hamirpur	610	610	0
21	Hardoi	2071	2071	0
22	Jalaun	1150	1147	3
23	Jaunpur	3284	3284	0
24	Jhansi	819	814	5
25	Kannauj	752	752	0
26	Kanpur Dehat	1005	1005	0
27	Kanpur Nagar	1007	1007	0
28	Kaushambi	808	808	0
29	Kheri	1799	1775	24
30	Kushi Nagar	1487	1487	0
31	Lalitpur	750	724	26
32	Lucknow	718	718	0
33	Maharajganj	1219	1217	2
34	Mahoba	521	513	8
35	Mau	1574	1574	0
36	Mirzapur	1967	1954	13
37	Pratapgarh	2139	2139	0
38	Prayagraj	2868	2867	1
39	Rae Bareli	1573	1573	0
40	Sant Kabeer Nagar	1646	1646	0
41	Shahjahanpur	2310	2309	1
42	Shravasti	536	532	4
43	Siddharth Nagar	2400	2400	0
44	Sitapur	2349	2348	1

45	Sonbhadra	1429	1376	53
46	Sultanpur	1720	1720	0
47	Unnao	1797	1797	0
48	Varanasi	1250	1250	0
	Grand Total	78829	78627	202

District wise Village coverage UPW				
S.No.	District Name	Total Number of Villages	No of Villages having Mobile coverage	No of Uncovered Villages
1	Agra	935	935	0
2	Aligarh	1188	1188	0
3	Amroha	1124	1124	0
4	Auraiya	841	841	0
5	Baghpat	315	315	0
6	Bareilly	2061	2061	0
7	Bijnor	2992	2991	1
8	Budaun	1678	1678	0
9	Bulandshahr	1246	1246	0
10	Etah	883	883	0
11	Etawah	693	693	0
12	Firozabad	803	803	0
13	Gautam Buddha Nagar	326	326	0
14	Ghaziabad	209	209	0
15	Hapur	352	352	0
16	Hathras	660	660	0
17	Kasganj	716	716	0
18	Mainpuri	833	833	0
19	Mathura	813	813	0
20	Meerut	664	664	0
21	Moradabad	1164	1164	0
22	Muzaffarnagar	706	706	0
23	Pilibhit	1435	1435	0
24	Rampur	1161	1161	0
25	Saharanpur*	1573	1573	0
26	Sambhal	1011	1011	0
27	Shamli	320	320	0
	Total	26,702	26701	1
