

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3456
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS

†3456. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to provide telecommunication facilities in the tribal areas;
- (b) whether any special scheme is proposed by the Government to provide telecom facility in rural areas under Khargone-Barwani parliamentary constituency, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the efforts being made to provide telecommunication facilities in tribal and hilly areas of Madhya Pradesh, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance telecom connectivity in the rural and remote areas including tribal areas of the country. The details of the schemes are attached as **Annexure-I**. In Barwani district 96 villages and 251 hamlets and in Khargone district 42 villages and 64 hamlets are being provided telecommunication facilities under above mentioned schemes. Details of ongoing Schemes to provide telecommunication facilities in the Madhya Pradesh State including the tribal and hilly areas are as below:

- i. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) 502 Scheme- To provide mobile 4G mobile coverage in 205 villages in 8 Aspirational districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ii. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) LWE (Left Wing Extremism) Phase -II Project – To provide 4G mobile coverage in villages in LWE areas of Balaghat District.
- iii. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) 4G Saturation Scheme- BSNL is entrusted with the responsibility to provide 4G mobile coverage in 2146 villages of Madhya Pradesh.
- iv. Special Assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government for utilization of Bharatnet to provide FTTH connections in Government Institutions from the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Madhya Pradesh.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3456 to be answered on 22nd March, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Telecommunications Facilities in Tribal Areas"

Details of schemes/projects to improve the communication network/system in rural, tribal and hilly areas across the country:

- i. 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;
- ii. Scheme for providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas.;
- iii. 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;
- iv. Scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- v. 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;
- vi. Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- vii. Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands.
- viii. Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- ix. 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.
- x. BharatNet project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure.
