

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5405
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 2023**

EXPANSION OF TELECOM SERVICES

5405. SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the plans made by the Government for expansion of telecom services in rural, backward, tribal areas especially in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of targets set and achieved for providing telecom services during the last three years, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the number of new mobile towers proposed to be installed and having been installed in the districts identified in Tamil Nadu especially in the district of Madurai; and
- (d) the funds allocated/spent by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of Mobile Towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country including the Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, 534 villages are proposed to be covered under USOF scheme for providing Mobile Connectivity, out of which 26 villages are in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. The major USOF schemes are at **Annexure-I**.

As per data provided from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field unit and State Government as of March 2022, there are 592 villages of Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Out of which 565 villages have been covered with mobile connectivity. Details of mobile towers / BTSs installed during last three years in the country and State of Tamil Nadu are attached at **Annexure-II**.

The details of fund allocated to improve telecom service in the state of Tamil Nadu is as below:

S.No.	Scheme name	State Outlay (Cr)	Total villages	Total sites
1	4G Saturation Scheme	451	534	420
	Total	451	534	420

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5405 to be answered on 5th April, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services"

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

- i. 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. The estimated project cost is Rs. 26,316 Cr.
- ii. Provision of 4G Mobile Services in North Eastern Region of the country under Comprehensive Telecom Development Program for NER. The estimated cost for schemes is Rs. 3637 Cr.
- iii. Hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth through BSNL for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from BSCCL, Bangladesh via Cox Bazar. Approval has been issued for hiring of additional 10 Gbps International Bandwidth also.
- iv. Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas. The estimated project cost is Rs. 337 Cr.
- v. Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 7,287 Aspirational District villages (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha). The estimated cost for projects is Rs. 6466 Cr.
- vi. Under LTE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LTE areas. Provision for upgradation of LTE Phase-I from 2G to 4G has also been made. The estimated project cost is Rs. 3567 Cr.
- vii. Under LTE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations are approved across the LTE States for provision of 4G mobile services. The estimated project cost is Rs. 2211 Cr.
- viii. Scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The estimated project cost is Rs. 686 Cr.
- ix. Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 130 Cr.
- x. Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1224 Cr.
- xi. Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1072 Cr.
- xii. BharatNet project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure. The total funding of the BharatNet (Phase-I and Phase-II), approved by the Cabinet, is Rs 42,068 crores (exclusive of GST, Octroi and local taxes).

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5405 to be answered on 05th April, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services"

Details of mobile towers/ BTSs installed during last three years in the country and State of Tamil Nadu:

S.No.	State/UT	No. of BTSs as on 31.12.2020	No. of BTSs as on 31.12.2021	No. of BTSs as on 31.12.2022
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	551	702	830
2.	Andhra Pradesh	80513	80214	84131
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3785	4064	4440
4.	Assam	52818	53448	55360
5.	Bihar	95001	102938	112738
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	3626	3522	3662
7.	Chhattisgarh	39721	43139	44575
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)	1652	1666	1638
9.	Delhi	66400	67787	74796
10.	Goa	6756	5435	5889
11.	Gujarat	133392	140066	142531
12.	Haryana	73699	77863	80796
13.	Himachal Pradesh	23387	24365	25034
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	34573	33218	34516
15.	Jharkhand	41514	46565	49691
16.	Karnataka	145377	147420	153282
17.	Kerala	89668	92445	96558
18.	Ladakh	986	1144	1345
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	62	64	66
20.	Madhya Pradesh	111456	118655	122205
21.	Maharashtra	236383	240985	249264
22.	Manipur	7451	7274	7615
23.	Meghalaya	6648	6608	7282
24.	Mizoram	3332	3546	3756
25.	Nagaland	5245	5037	5162
26.	Odisha	67187	70228	74127
27.	Puducherry (UT)	2622	2529	2541
28.	Punjab	78450	79025	80792
29.	Rajasthan	122433	126928	133885
30.	Sikkim	2316	2420	2515
31.	Tamil Nādu	173599	159432	163336
32.	Telangana	88011	86051	92232
33.	Tripura	7605	7883	8046
34.	Uttar Pradesh	272575	289441	305214
35.	Uttarakhand	27707	29835	30782
36.	West Bengal	149725	148593	160156
	Total	2256226	2310535	2420788
