

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5514
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 2023**

TELECOM TOWERS

5514. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details about the number of villages in the country where telecom towers have been installed during the last one year in Gujarat, district-wise;
- (b) the details of the number of telecom towers that the Government is planning to install in the current and the next year; and
- (c) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve telecommunication network in villages and remote areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per data received from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), field units of Department of Telecom 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 coverage. In Gujarat, there are 18425 villages, out of which 17858 villages have mobile connectivity and out of these, 17704 villages are covered with 3G/4G mobile connectivity. Details of District wise coverage and Mobile Towers/BTS installed in Gujarat is at **Annexure-I**.

Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) install Telecom towers to 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 network coverage in all uncovered villages of the country including Gujarat. Through these schemes, mobile connectivity is planned in 610 villages of Gujarat State. The list of major USOF schemes is at **Annexure-II**. Also, to facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, across the country the Government has formulated the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 amended in 2017, 2021 and 2022.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5514 to be answered on 5th April, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Telecom Towers"

District wise coverage details of Gujarat:

District Name	Total no. of Villages as per RGI Data (30-11-2019)	No. of Villages having mobile connectivity	No. of villages having 3G /4G coverage	The number of villages in the rural area where Telecom Towers have been installed in the last 3 years and current year (No. of Villages is to be given)
Ahmedabad	456	451	451	396
Amreli	620	613	613	189
Anand	349	348	348	231
Arvalli	682	677	677	54
Banas Kantha	1245	1226	1223	468
Bharuch	663	652	652	266
Bhavnagar	684	673	673	314
Botad	187	186	186	46
Chhotaudepur	896	882	880	41
Dahod	694	685	683	95
Devbhumi Dwarka	283	274	272	61
Gandhinagar	262	262	262	302
Gir Somnath	452	371	364	70
Jamnagar	416	409	407	310
Junagadh	579	544	540	321
Kachchh	934	858	846	395
Kheda	523	523	523	311
Mahesana	612	612	612	335
Mahisagar	713	708	707	51
Morbi	346	342	342	220
Narmada	611	580	572	89
Navsari	381	379	376	106
Panch Mahals	598	595	595	218
Patan	514	508	508	196
Porbandar	181	171	169	60
Rajkot	594	592	591	364
Sabar Kantha	706	700	698	301
Surat	719	701	700	393
Surendranagar	574	563	563	213
Tapi	532	471	470	66
The Dangs	310	224	142	40
Vadodara	655	654	654	338
Valsad	454	424	405	115
Grand Total	18425	17858	17704	6975

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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 LWE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LWE areas. Provision for upgradation of LWE Phase-I from 2G to 4G has also been made. The estimated project cost is Rs. 3567 Cr.
- vii. Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations are approved across the LWE 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).
