

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1006  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**MOBILE TOWERS FOR REMOTE VILLAGES**

†1006. **SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile towers are still not available in the different remote villages across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the vision related to communication revolution in remote villages is likely to be completed;
- (c) whether there has been a constant demand since long seeking installation of BSNL mobile towers in different villages of Hingoli and Nanded districts of Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to start 4G services in Hingoli and Nanded districts, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be started; and
- (f) the details of the action taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecommunications field units 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), around 6,05,230 number of villages are having mobile coverage in the country and 38,901 villages are not having mobile coverage. Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) 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 telecom connectivity to all uncovered villages of the country. The major USOF schemes are attached at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) As such no demand is pending for seeking installation of BSNL mobile towers in different villages of Hingoli and Nanded districts of Maharashtra.

(e) & (f) In Nanded and Hingoli Districts of Maharashtra, out of 2371 (708 Hingoli + 1663 Nanded) Inhabited villages (as per RGI data as of November 2019), 2290 (705 Hingoli + 1585 Nanded) villages are covered with mobile connectivity, and out of these villages, 2269 (704 Hingoli + 1565 Nanded) villages have 4G connectivity.

Further, the Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022, has approved 4G Saturation scheme for providing 4G mobile coverage to the remaining villages of the country including the State of Maharashtra. Under 4G saturation project, 66 sites are planned in Nanded district and 8 sites are planned in Hingoli district.

**Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1006 to be answered on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Mobile Towers For Remote Villages"**

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).

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