

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1043
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

INTERNET CONNECTION IN RURAL AREAS

†1043. **SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Government's plan to connect rural areas with internet;
- (b) whether the Government has achieved the target, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the number of villages in rural areas and Parliamentary Constituencies of Maharashtra connected with internet so far, district and village panchayat-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that said work has been stopped in a number of areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to connect the villages with internet for other facilities including education?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication and mobile internet services in the country in a phased manner. As per data received from 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) in the country, around 6,05,230 villages are having mobile coverage. Out of total 43,931 villages in Maharashtra, 40,810 villages have mobile connectivity. District wise details of telecommunication connectivity in Maharashtra is at **Annexure-I**.

Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance telecommunications and internet connectivity in the rural and remote areas of the country. The details of the schemes are attached as **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1043 to be answered on 26th July, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Internet connection in Rural areas"

District wise details of mobile internet connectivity in the State of Maharashtra :

S. No.	Districts	Total no. of Villages as per RGI Data (Nov, 2019)	Villages Covered with Mobile Connectivity
1	Ahmadnagar	1586	1489
2	Akola	972	955
3	Amravati	1981	1808
4	Aurangabad	1361	1347
5	Bhandara	885	850
6	Bid	1371	1349
7	Buldana	1438	1408
8	Chandrapur	1775	1696
9	Dhule	720	659
10	Gadchiroli	1646	851
11	Gondiya	934	893
12	Hingoli	708	705
13	Jalgaon	1524	1488
14	Jalna	965	962
15	Kolhapur	1250	1176
16	Latur	943	939
17	Nagpur	1900	1795
18	Nanded	1663	1585
19	Nandurbar	960	742
20	Nashik	1928	1727
21	Osmanabad	739	728
22	Palghar	904	817
23	Parbhani	843	831
24	Pune	1882	1752
25	Raigarh	2008	1805
26	Ratnagiri	1538	1355
27	Sangli	724	716
28	Satara	1771	1611
29	Sindhudurg	746	651
30	Solapur	1159	1148
31	Thane	816	763
32	Wardha	1382	1357
33	Washim	782	769
34	Yavatmal	2127	2083

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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. 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 taxes).
