

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2119
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2023**

BROADBAND COVERAGE

**2119. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has achieved full broadband and mobile coverage in all tribal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the tribal areas, State-wise, that do not have broadband and mobile coverage; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure full broadband and mobile coverage in all tribal areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government of India and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide the telecommunication connectivity in the country including tribal areas in a phased manner. As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), field units of Department of Telecommunications 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 6,00,384 number of villages including tribal villages are covered with mobile broadband connectivity. State/UT-wise mobile broadband coverage is given in **Annexure-I**.

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives for ensuring broadband and mobile coverage in rural areas including tribal areas:

- i. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages of the Country with broadband including the tribal areas. As on 30-06-2023, a total of 6,43,450 Kms Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid and 1,94,909 GPs are Service Ready (1,90,105 GPs on OFC & 4804 GPs on Satellite) under BharatNet project.
- ii. Various Projects for provision of 4G mobile services are under implementation like Provision of 4G mobile services in Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Affected Areas, North East Region, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands (CTDP-Islands) etc. In addition, Government has also launched 4G saturation project implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for covering all uncovered villages in the country including all tribal villages.

Annexure referred to in Part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2119 to be answered on 02.08.2023

State/UT-wise details of mobile broadband coverage in villages including tribal areas of the country

| S.No. | State Name | No. of villages (as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019) | No. of villages Covered with mobile broadband (March-22) | Uncovered Villages (March 2022) |
|-------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 559 | 150 | 409 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 17328 | 14174 | 3154 |
| 3 | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 5993 | 2371 | 3622 |
| 4 | Assam | 26429 | 24266 | 2163 |
| 5 | Bihar | 44888 | 44577 | 311 |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh | 20072 | 17562 | 2510 |
| 7 | DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU | 95 | 62 | 33 |
| 8 | GOA | 392 | 348 | 44 |
| 9 | GUJARAT | 18425 | 17704 | 721 |
| 10 | Haryana | 6640 | 6631 | 9 |
| 11 | HIMACHAL PRADESH | 20852 | 19037 | 1815 |
| 12 | Jammu and Kashmir | 6474 | 5645 | 829 |
| 13 | Jharkhand | 32370 | 30052 | 2318 |
| 14 | Karnataka | 29818 | 28652 | 1166 |
| 15 | Kerala | 1438 | 1384 | 54 |
| 16 | Ladakh | 243 | 93 | 150 |
| 17 | Lakshadweep | 27 | 23 | 4 |
| 18 | Madhya Pradesh | 55058 | 51849 | 3209 |
| 19 | Maharashtra | 43931 | 40591 | 3340 |
| 20 | Manipur | 2612 | 2081 | 531 |
| 21 | Meghalaya | 7100 | 4598 | 2502 |
| 22 | Mizoram | 867 | 623 | 244 |
| 23 | Nagaland | 1535 | 1083 | 452 |
| 24 | NCT of Delhi | 55 | 55 | 0 |
| 25 | Odisha | 51176 | 43656 | 7520 |
| 26 | Puducherry | 96 | 95 | 1 |
| 27 | Punjab | 12534 | 12519 | 15 |
| 28 | Rajasthan | 46077 | 42365 | 3712 |
| 29 | Sikkim | 461 | 157 | 304 |
| 30 | Tamil Nadu | 16488 | 16010 | 478 |
| 31 | Telangana | 10203 | 9964 | 239 |
| 32 | Tripura | 937 | 638 | 299 |
| 33 | Uttar Pradesh | 105531 | 105156 | 375 |
| 34 | Uttarakhand | 16456 | 15377 | 1079 |
| 35 | West Bengal | 40971 | 40836 | 135 |
| | Grand Total | 644131 | 600384 | 43747 |
