

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2189  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**LACK OF INTERNET FACILITY**

**2189. SHRI B.B. PATIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a lack of internet facility in the villages and remote areas of the country including Telangana and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has launched the Digital Village Scheme to provide free Wi-Fi hotspot facilities to Gram Panchayats to overcome the said issues and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main objectives and features of the said scheme and the total number of villages covered under the said scheme across the country including Telangana; and
- (d) the total budget allocated and spent on provisioning LED street lighting, Wi-Fi hotspot, telemedicine, distance education services, skill development services in the State of Telangana including Kamareddy-Sangareddy districts during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country in a phased manner. As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field units and State Governments as of March 2022, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (as per RGI data of November 2019), 6,05,230 villages are covered with Mobile internet connectivity. In the state of Telangana, there are 10,203 villages, out of which 10,000 (as of March 2022) are covered with mobile connectivity.

(b) to (d) The Digital Village Pilot Project was approved by Ministry of Electronics and Technology (MeitY) on 31.10.2018. The project is being implemented in 700 Gram Panchayats(GP)/Village with atleast one GP/village from each district of the State/UT which includes 30 villages in the State of Telangana. Following are the deliverables of the project;

- i. **Education Service:** Courses offered under this project are - Basic Computer Course (BCC), Course on Computer Concept (CCC), Basic Course on Information Technology (BCIT), Tally – Kaushal Praman Patra
- ii. **Health Services** – Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation
- iii. **Financial Inclusion-** Financial inclusion awareness programme
- iv. **Solar power street lights** (8 Solar lights per village)
- v. **Skill Development** - in Automotive Technician, Handset Repairing, Field Technician- Home Appliances, and Electrical Technician.

Rs. 2.998 Crore was allocated and sanctioned for the project implementation in the State of Telangana (@Rs. 9,99,500/- for each village covered under the project).

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