

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

NUMBER OF VILLAGES WITH INTERNET SERVICES

†927. SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in the country being provided with telecommunication and internet services at present;
- (b) the target fixed to connect the left out villages with telecommunication and internet services;
- (c) the number of villages connected with telecom and internet services in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and
- (d) the target fixed to connect the remaining villages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication and mobile internet service in the country in a phased manner including the state of Madhya Pradesh. As per data provided from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field unit and State Government 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 covered with telecommunication and mobile internet services. In Madhya Pradesh out of 55,058 (as per RGI data of November 2019) village, 51,966 village are connected with telecommunication and mobile internet services. District wise details of telecom and internet service is attached in **Annexure-I**

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 Madhya Pradesh. In addition, Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to connect the left out villages with telecommunication and internet services. Details of major schemes with timelines are at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 927 to be answered on 26th July, 2023 raised by Hon’ble Member of Parliament regarding “Number of Villages with Internet Services”

SR. NO.	DISTRICTS	TOTAL VILLAGES	Villages covered with telecom and internet services
1	Agar-Malwa	499	488
2	Alirajpur	544	501
3	Anuppur	579	559
4	Ashoknagar	880	844
5	Balaghat	1394	1218
6	Barwani	707	566
7	Betul	1457	1208
8	Bhind	939	918
9	Bhopal	514	486
10	Burhanpur	265	245
11	Chhatarpur	1238	1116
12	Chhindwara	2002	1842
13	Damoh	1216	1157
14	Datia	663	657
15	Dewas	1128	1069
16	Dhar	1561	1464
17	Dindori	928	804
18	Guna	1333	1283
19	Gwalior	590	545
20	Harda	550	497
21	Hoshangabad	966	868
22	Indore	621	616
23	Jabalpur	1395	1383
24	Jhabua	821	812
25	Katni	947	931
26	Khandwa (East Nimar)	718	683
27	Khargone (West Nimar)	1409	1301
28	Mandla	1247	1145
29	Mandsaur	951	925
30	Morena	847	782
31	Narsimhapur	1058	1032
32	Neemuch	808	759
33	Niwari	281	281
34	Panna	1035	921
35	Raisen	1486	1413
36	Rajgarh	1723	1680
37	Ratlam	1085	1055
38	Rewa	2711	2681
39	Sagar	2025	1953
40	Satna	1953	1889
41	Sehore	1082	1035
42	Seoni	1574	1516
43	Shahdol	836	806
44	Shajapur	632	617
45	Sheopur	609	506
46	Shivpuri	1355	1265
47	Sidhi	1055	994
48	Singrauli	761	683
49	Tikamgarh	682	674
50	Ujjain	1107	1102
51	Umaria	647	612
52	Vidisha	1644	1579

Annexure referred to in reply of part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 927 to be answered on 26th July, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Number of Villages with Internet Services"

Details of major schemes/projects to improve the communication network/system in rural and remote areas across the country:

- (a) 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. Target date of completion is December 2023.
- (b) 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. 3,637 Cr.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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. 6,466 Cr. Target date of completion is November 2023
- (f) Under LTE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LTE areas. Provision for upgradation of LTE Phase-I from 2G to 4G has also been made. The estimated project cost is Rs. 3,567 Cr.
- (g) Under LTE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations are approved across the LTE States for provision of 4G mobile services. The estimated project cost is Rs. 2,211 Cr.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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. Target date of completion is 14.11.2023.
- (j) 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. 1,224 Cr.
- (k) Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1,072 Cr.
- (l) 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). Target date of completion is 2025.
