

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 970
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

EXPANSION OF TELECOM SERVICES

**970. SHRI NAYAB SINGH:
SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the plans made by the Government for expansion of telecom services in rural, backward and tribal areas especially in Kurukshetra district of Haryana and in Khandwa and Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the targets set and achieved for providing telecom services and connectivity during the last three years, State-wise especially in the States of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) the number of new mobile towers proposed to be installed and having been installed in the districts identified in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh to enhance the network quality in the rural and tribal areas especially in Naraingarh and Khandwa; and
- (d) the details of the funds allocated/spent by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government is implementing various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country including the states of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, 3353 villages are proposed to be covered under USOF scheme for providing mobile connectivity, out of which 42 villages are in Khandwa and 13 villages are in Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The major USOF schemes are at **Annexure-I**.

As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecommunications field units and State Governments, as of March, 2022, there are 413 villages in Kurukshetra district and 172 villages in Naraingarh sub district in the State of Haryana and all villages are covered with mobile connectivity. In State of Madhya Pradesh, out of 718 villages of Khandawa district and 265 villages of Burhanpur district, 683 villages in Khandawa district and 245 villages in Burhanpur district have been covered with mobile connectivity. State wise detail of mobile towers installed during last three years in the country including the states of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh is attached at **Annexure-II**.

As on 30-06-2023, a sum of ₹360.90 Crore for Madhya Pradesh and ₹0.82 Crore for Haryana have been allocated/ disbursed / spent under ongoing Mobile Projects of Universal Service Obligation Fund.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 970 to be answered on 26th July, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services"

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 taxes).

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 970 to be answered on 26th July, 2023 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Telecom Services"

State/UT-wise BTS details

SN	State/UT	No. of BTSs as on 31.03.2021	No. of BTSs as on 31.03.2022	No. of BTSs as on 31.03.2023	No. of BTSs as on 30.06.2023
1	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	572	776	894	959
2	Andhra Pradesh	80895	80811	89051	96766
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3724	4154	4700	5138
4	Assam	50314	53092	57555	61414
5	Bihar	95020	105098	117427	125291
6	Chandigarh (UT)	3672	3506	3984	4073
7	Chhattisgarh	40500	43654	46546	48919
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	719	789	803	974
9	Daman (UT)	778	748	816	811
10	Delhi	65056	68585	79446	81330
11	Diu (UT)	145	146	129	136
12	Goa	6848	5558	6256	6655
13	Gujarat	134821	140903	149213	157637
14	Haryana	74608	78342	85311	91100
15	Himachal Pradesh	23518	24286	25912	27022
16	Jammu & Kashmir	31943	33142	36365	38868
17	Jharkhand	42426	47496	53146	56341
18	Karnataka	143882	147803	161635	170957
19	Kerala	89119	93534	101163	110074
20	Ladakh	985	1152	1352	1443
21	Lakshadweep (UT)	62	66	68	69
22	Madhya Pradesh	114344	119708	127744	135445
23	Maharashtra	239720	244332	260494	271509
24	Manipur	6866	7299	8056	8223
25	Meghalaya	6111	6942	7446	7720
26	Mizoram	3294	3579	3936	4091
27	Nagaland	4843	5035	5433	5686
28	Odisha	66142	70990	77951	83659
29	Puducherry (UT)	2455	2483	2716	2794
30	Punjab	78657	79669	85141	90713
31	Rajasthan	122203	127623	139175	147656
32	Sikkim	2338	2476	2583	2637
33	Tamilnadu	159999	159959	172769	186293
34	Telangana	85490	86737	96786	103286
35	Tripura	7474	7856	8427	8849
36	Uttar Pradesh	276759	293692	322364	340303
37	Uttarakhand	28481	30264	32732	34401
38	West Bengal	145493	150265	166688	176421
Grand Total		2240276	2332550	2542213	2695663
