

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1800
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2023**

MOBILE TOWERS IN RURAL AREAS

†1800. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile towers are still not available in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the vision of the communication revolution is likely to be achieved in the said rural areas;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start 5G services in Aurangabad and Rohtas districts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Telecom connectivity in Country has improved significantly in last 10 years. The total number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Station) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 25.42 Lakh in March-2023. Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr in March-2014 to 114.84 Cr. in August 2023. Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 88.12 Cr. in March-2023.

As of September '2023, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,16,300 villages are covered with mobile connectivity at a coverage of 95.7%.

In order to provide telecom connectivity in uncovered villages in the country, the Government has undertaken numerous schemes. Government has planned 41,160 towers in uncovered areas of the country to provide connectivity to more than 54,000 villages at the cost of more than Rs. 41,331Cr.

(c)&(d) India has seen one of the fastest roll out of 5G services in the world with around 3.99 lakh BTSs deployed in around 738 districts including Aurangabad and Rohtas districts of Bihar.
