

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2815
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023
TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**†2815. SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mobile and internet services along with other telecommunication services are not satisfactory in the rural areas of the Country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the areas in Maharashtra where the telecommunication services are not good, Parliamentary Constituency, district and tehsil-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the situation in the said areas and if so, the details thereof including the steps taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to install mobile towers at various places in Parbhani and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Parliamentary Constituencies as per demand and requirement of the land areas, if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) 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 Maharashtra out of 43,931 villages, 40,554 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

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 including state of Maharashtra.

As on 31.10.2023, 6,394 Mobile towers have already been commissioned in the country in various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), covering 7,535 villages including National Highway locations.

For improving the telecom connectivity in Maharashtra, 2,691 towers have been planned under various schemes at the cost of Rs. 2,605 Cr. These towers will improve mobile connectivity in 3,529 villages including villages in Parbhani and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Parliamentary Constituencies.
