

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 887
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY OF RURAL POPULATION

**887. DR. T. SUMATHY:
THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure sufficient digital connectivity to the rural population whereas only 33 per cent of the rural population in the country has access to the internet; and
- (b) the other effective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b) Telecom connectivity in the Country has improved significantly in last 10 years as follows:

- The total number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 28.78 Lakh in December-2023.
- Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr. in March 2014 to 115.41 Cr. in November 2023.
- Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 89.58 Cr. in June-2023.
- As of November 2023, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,17,150 villages i.e. 95.8% villages are covered with mobile connectivity.
- Under BharatNet project, more than 2.1 lakh villages have been made service ready.

To further improve telecom connectivity in the country, Government is implementing various schemes.

- A total of 41,160 mobile towers have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 41,331 Cr to provide 4G connectivity to about 55 thousand villages.
- Scope of BharatNet program has been expanded to connect all inhabited villages with an outlay of Rs. 1.88 Lakh Cr.
