

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 536  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**NETWORK ISSUES**

536. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to completely remove network issues in connectivity in every corner of the country including the areas with difficult terrain and remote areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) Network coverage in the uncovered villages including areas with difficult terrain and remote areas in the country is being provided by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner. A number of schemes have been taken up by the Government with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for providing/facilitating/ improving network connectivity in the country as given below:

- (i) BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2.5 lakh) in the country.
- (ii) For provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, the Phase-I scheme has been completed by installing 2343 towers.
- (iii) Public Wi-Fi hotspots at the 25,000 rural telephone exchanges of BSNL are being provided.
- (iv) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region.
- (v) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing high bandwidth connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- (vi) Providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered areas of Bihar, J&K, Ladakh, Border areas and other priority areas.

- (vii) Provisioning of 4G based Mobile service in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of four states Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan.

Moreover, the Government has also taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth in the country which include permitting trading/sharing/liberalization of spectrum, permitting passive & active infrastructure sharing, notification of Right of Way Rules 2016, making available government land/buildings for installations of towers, carrying out Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) awareness campaign to dispel the misgivings to the public regarding EMF radiations emission from mobile towers through print and electronic media etc.

\*\*\*\*\*