

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 27
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021**

DIGITAL LITERACY AND INTERNET SPEED

†*27. SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
SHRIMATI QUEEN OJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether digital literacy has increased in the country during the lockdown period imposed consequent to COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the internet speed particularly in the rural areas;
- (c) the number of villages where the facility of high speed internet is not available, State/UT-wise including Gujarat; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 FOR 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021 REGARDING “DIGITAL LITERACY AND INTERNET SPEED”.

(a) Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) Scheme, administered by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, since the imposition of lockdown by Central/State Governments in March 2020, around 55.21 Lakh candidates have been enrolled; 43.86 Lakh have been trained, out of which more than 30.29 Lakh candidates have been duly certified in FY 2020-21. As on 2nd February 2021, around 4.19 crore candidates have been enrolled; 3.43 crore candidates have been trained, out of which 2.50 crore candidates have been certified.

(b) To improve the internet speed particularly in rural areas, BharatNet project is being implemented to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) by broadband/high speed internet infrastructure in the country.

(c)& (d) High speed internet facility is being provided in rural areas by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) through 3G/4G mobile connectivity and through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity. 37,439 census villages in the country are not covered by high speed 3G/4G mobile connectivity. In Gujarat State, 775 villages are not covered by high speed 3G/4G mobile connectivity. State/UT-wise details given in **Annexure**. These villages are being covered with high speed internet facility under schemes of the Government and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in Part (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 27 for Answer on 03.02.2021.

No. of Villages Not having high speed internet Coverage

Sl. No.	State/UT	No of inhabited villages as per Census 2011	No of inhabited villages not having high speed internet Coverage
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	396	311
2	Andhra Pradesh	16158	2095
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	3343
4	Assam	25372	1231
5	Bihar	39073	321
6	Chandigarh	5	0
7	Chhattisgarh	19567	2793
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	84	11
9	Delhi	103	0
10	Goa	320	21
11	Gujarat	17843	775
12	Haryana	6642	1
13	Himachal Pradesh	17882	974
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6101	388
15	Jharkhand	29492	2069
16	Karnataka	27397	608
17	Kerala	1017	0
18	Ladakh	236	155
19	Lakshadweep	6	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	51929	2450
21	Maharashtra	40959	2014
22	Manipur	2515	806
23	Meghalaya	6459	2418
24	Mizoram	704	296
25	Nagaland	1400	378
26	Odisha	47677	8947
27	Punjab	12168	1
28	Puducherry	90	0
29	Rajasthan	43264	1453
30	Sikkim	425	16
31	Tamil Nadu	15049	74
32	Telangana	10128	375
33	Tripura	863	60
34	Uttarakhand	15745	2410
35	Uttar Pradesh	97813	620
36	West Bengal	37478	25
	Total	5,97,618	37,439
