

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1451
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

INTERNET SERVICES IN VILLAGES

1451. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages which are not connected with internet services in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the time by which each and every village in the country is expected to get internet connectivity;
- (c) the funds allocated/released/utilized and financial assistance given by the Government during the last three years for the said purpose, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase digital literacy in rural areas; and
- (e) the funds allocated and the financial assistance given by the Government during the last three years to increase digital literacy?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Internet is currently accessed through mobile wireless 3G/4G technologies and fixed wireline broadband in the country. As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2020, it is estimated that 37,439 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the country including 2,095 inhabited villages in Andhra Pradesh do not have 3G/ 4G mobile internet coverage.
- (b) These uncovered villages are being covered with high speed internet facility under schemes of the Government and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner.
- (c) State/UT-wise fund allocated by the Government during the last three years for the BharatNet and other schemes for increasing the internet connectivity in rural areas is given in Annexure 1A & 1B.

(d) The Government has taken following steps to increase digital literacy in rural areas of the country:

- In the years 2014 to 2016, two Schemes entitled “National Digital Literacy Mission” (NDLM) and “Digital Saksharta Abhiyan” (DISHA) were implemented by the Government with a target to train 52.50 lakh candidates in digital literacy across the country including rural India. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained, out of which around 42% of candidates were from rural India.
- In February 2017, the Government of India has approved a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) at a total outlay of Rs. 2,351.38 crore (approx.). Under this Scheme, in order to ensure equitable geographical reach, it is envisaged to cover each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country. So far, more than 4.21 crore candidates have been enrolled and around 3.44 crore have been trained, out of which more than 2.51 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.

(e) So far, a total of Rs.1088 Crore has been released for implementation of the PMGDISHA scheme. The funds allocated by the Government for the said Scheme including current financial year are as under:

Financial Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Amount(in Cr)	100	438	400	150

Annexure 1A

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1451 for Answer on 10.02.2021.

Details of fund allocated/released/utilized in BharatNet project by the Government as on 31.12.2020 for last three years

S.No	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	12.84	0.05
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.91	5.39	15.32
3	Arunachal Pradesh	182.41	308.15	95.93
4	Assam	269.09	72.15	595.87
5	Bihar	59.35	9.95	4.78
6	Chhattisgarh	20.80	1.70	0.27
7	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	160.26	35.51	6.06
8	Haryana	12.86	6.18	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	397.09	91.50	940.13
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	136.45	77.21	376.72
11	Jharkhand	137.06	319.81	130.92
12	Karnataka	157.59	110.16	201.03
13	Kerala	40.37	343.94	112.44
14	Lakshadweep	67.31	16.34	0.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	96.70	25.59	3.39
16	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Manipur	0.82	0.08	0.00
18	Meghalaya	0.60	3.74	0.05
19	Mizoram	9.37	3.17	0.00
20	Nagaland	2.08	1.20	0.06
21	Odisha	0.78	1.34	0.25
22	Puducherry	0.18	2.85	0.00
23	Punjab	9.14	2.48	0.00
24	Rajasthan	302.63	996.60	347.11
25	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Tamil Nadu	39.42	3.90	225.41
27	Telangana	67.92	127.09	252.77
28	Tripura	122.40	59.81	214.36
29	Uttar Pradesh	4.92	27.48	0.00

S.No	State/UT	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
30	Uttarakhand	4.38	159.26	191.23
31	West Bengal	0.00	0.01	39.44
	Total	2333.86	2825.43	3753.58
	GPON & OFC	127.76	0.00	0.00
	Ad hoc payment done for BSNL	863.00	770.00	0.00
	TCIL	0.00	19.67	11.40
	BSNL -VSAT	0.00	42.38	0.00
	Bandwidth	0.00	40.12	0.00

Annexure 1B referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1451 for Answer on 10.02.2021.

Funds allocated/released/utilized under various USOF Schemes during the last three years (Rs. In Crore)

S.N	Name of States/UTs	Funds allocated/released/utilized under other USOF Schemes during the last three years (Rs. In Crore)
Scheme for Submarine OFC Connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. (Amount in Crore)		
1	Andaman & Nicobar	352.47
Scheme for setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi at Rural Exchanges of BSNL		
1	Andhra Pradesh	19.31
2	Assam	4.10
3	Bihar	20.58
4	Chhattisgarh	5.56
5	Gujarat	19.74
6	Haryana	8.80
7	Himachal Pradesh	8.76
8	Jammu & Kashmir	2.80
9	Jharkhand	3.88
10	Karnataka	27.51
11	Kerala	16.39
12	Madhya Pradesh	12.53
13	Maharashtra	54.40
14	NE-I (Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura)	1.75
15	NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	1.65
16	Odisha	11.90
17	Punjab	12.43
18	Rajasthan	17.29
19	Tamil Nadu	15.87
20	Telangana	10.16
21	Uttar Pradesh	23.69
22	Uttarakhand	4.43
23	West Bengal	12.43
	TOTAL	315.95
	G. Total	668.42
