

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1485
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

TELECOM ACCESS TO TRIBAL HAMLETS

1485. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tribal hamlets in rural areas of the country that have access to 2G, 3G and 4G internet facilities State-wise;
- (b) the average out of pocket expenditure incurred by each tribal family in rural areas to avail 2G, 3G and 4G internet facilities respectively State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any schemes that subsidise the cost of access to the aforesaid internet services for tribal beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No such data for tribal hamlets in rural areas is collected. As per gap analysis by Ministry of Tribal Affairs based on data available in Census 2011 and Mission Antyodaya maintained by Ministry of Rural Development, out of about 1.17 lakh tribal villages with Scheduled Tribes population 25% or more in 177 Tribal dominated Districts, about 87,000 villages have access to 2G/3G/4G mobile internet facilities as on August 2019. However, in the intervening years, the coverage of mobile connectivity in the country has been enhanced and the number of inhabited villages without mobile coverage has further diminished.
- (b) The average out of pocket expenditure incurred by each tribal family in the rural areas to avail 2G,3G and 4G internet facilities is not maintained.
- (c) & (d) At present no such proposal is under consideration.
