

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3530
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2021**

RURAL INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

3530. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of rural internet subscribers in the country State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government is taking any steps to increase internet subscribers in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to distribute any device to increase rural internet subscribers especially in backward districts of the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Service area-wise number of internet subscribers in rural areas of the country at the end of September 2020 is given at **Annexure**.

(b)&(c) For penetration of internet services in rural and backward areas of the country, the Department has taken the following initiatives:

1. The Department is executing the flagship Bharatnet Project to connect 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) with an optical mix of media (i.e. OFC/Radio/Satellite). Under this project Wi-fi hotspots have been installed in 103400 GPs.
2. The Union Cabinet has approved Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework on 9-12-2020 which allows smaller players to provide Wi-Fi services without having to incur heavy costs, thus leading to setting up of more Wi-Fi hotspots in the country including rural areas.
3. For provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas under Phase-I, the project has been completed by installing 2,343 towers. Under Phase-II- 4G mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas for installation of 2,542 number of tower sites.

4. Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region, a total number of 1,358 towers have been installed, out of which 1,355 sites are providing services.
5. Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
6. Mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas. About 80 villages have been covered.
7. 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3530 to be answered on 17th March 2021 regarding Rural internet subscribers in Andhra Pradesh.

Service area wise Rural internet subscribers in the country at the end of September-2020

(in Million)

Telecom Service Area	Total Rural subscribers
Andhra Pradesh	26.69
Assam	8.90
Bihar	32.82
Delhi	0.76
Gujarat	14.67
Haryana	7.08
Himachal Pradesh	4.09
Jammu & Kashmir	3.45
Karnataka	17.17
Kerala	11.50
Kolkata	1.44
Madhya Pradesh	20.84
Maharashtra	26.86
Mumbai	1.95
North East	4.31
Orissa	13.09
Punjab	8.66
Rajasthan	20.49
Tamil Nadu	14.63
UP (East)	30.52
UP (West)	14.89
West Bengal	17.52
Total	302.35

Source: TRAI
