

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1610
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th JULY, 2021**

5G AND BROADBAND SERVICES

1610. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of rolling out of 5G services in the country;
- (b) the status of broadband services in rural areas and remote villages;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the speed of the network in the country; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to give incentives for promotion of fixed broadband services across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) The 5G services have not yet commenced in the country. However, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has granted permission to Telecom Service Providers namely, M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd., M/s Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd. on 27th May 2021 and M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited on 23rd June 2021 for conducting 5G Technology trials with a validity period of 6 months.

(b) to (d) The internet facilities are being provided in rural and remote areas by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) through wireless mobile, fixed wireline and Public Wifi. As per the data provided by the TSPs and field units of Department of Telecommunications, it is estimated that out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) of the country, a total of 5,72,551 villages have mobile wireless coverage.

To provide high speed internet connectivity, Government of India is also implementing BharatNet Project in all the Gram Panchayats(GPs) of the country. Recently, it has been approved by Government to extend BharatNet to all inhabited villages in the country. As on 01.07.2021, a total number of 1,57,383 GPs have been made service ready and 1,04,310 GPs have WiFi hotspots installed.
