

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 48  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**

†\*48. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the mobile, internet along with the other telecommunication services in the rural areas of the country are not satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such areas in Rajasthan where telecommunication services are poor and the Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to resolve the said situation in such areas and has taken steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has plans to install mobile towers at various places in Churu Parliamentary Constituency as per the demand and need of the mobile facility and if so, the location-wise details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2021 REGARDING “COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS”**

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) against the benchmarks, for various Quality of Service parameters, laid down by TRAI, by way of Quality of Service regulations, issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). The performance is assessed for a License Service Area (LSA) as a whole. Separate information on performance on Quality of Services in District or in a particular area such as rural areas is not available.

As reported by TSPs, telecom services in the country including rural areas are by and large satisfactory.

The Government through various schemes/projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing telecommunication services in uncovered villages in the country in a phased manner. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on the basis of a survey carried out in 2020, has estimated that about 5,72,551 villages out of 5,97,618 inhabited census villages (as per Census – 2011) of the country have mobile network coverage. Out of 5,72,551 mobile covered villages, 5,58,537 villages have high speed mobile internet through 3G/4G technology.

In the state of Rajasthan, about 42,323 villages out of 43,264 inhabited census villages have mobile network coverage, while 941 inhabited villages do not have mobile network coverage.

(c) The Government through various schemes/projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) namely (i) Left Wing Extremism(Phase-I & II) projects; (ii) Aspirational Districts scheme; (iii) Commissioning of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity from Chennai to Andaman & Nicobar Islands; (iv) Scheme for connecting submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Kochi to Lakshadweep Islands; (v) BharatNet (Phase-I & II) projects; (vi) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region; and (vii) Provision of 4G mobile coverage in uncovered villages and seamless 4G mobile coverage of National Highway-4 (earlier NH-223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc., is providing mobile and internet services in the rural areas of the country, including Rajasthan.

DoT has also taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/liberalisation of spectrum, permitting passive & active infrastructure sharing, etc. About 16.49 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) from March 2014 across the country.

(d) TSPs install mobile towers and BTSs to improve coverage and/or capacity of their networks based on their techno-commercial requirements. Around 4,737 BTSs in Churu Constituency in Rajasthan are already providing mobile network connectivity.

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