

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2507  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022**

**BROADBAND SERVICES**

†2507. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether quality of broadband services being provided by the Government across the country is not satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government, State, Union-territory-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has set any time limit or prepared any blueprint for connecting villages with broadband through 4G/5G/Wi-Fi under Digital India; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to solve the signal problem being faced in the border areas of the country including Rajasthan?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The quality of broadband services across the country is satisfactory in general. However, due to geographical/ associated technical factors, there may be some quality issues at times. Also, quality of services is being monitored by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) periodically.

Broadband services are provided in the country by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) through mobile wireless 3G/ 4G technologies and fixed wireline connections in a phased manner. As per data provided by TSPs and field units of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as on December 2020, it is estimated that out of 5,97,618 inhabited census villages (as per Census - 2011) in the country, a total number of 5,58,537 villages have been connected with mobile broadband through 3G/4G technologies.

Further, BhartNet project is implemented in a phase manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The scope of BhartNet has now been extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs.

Moreover, 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 including uncovered villages of Rajasthan and border areas of the country.

The various schemes/projects under USOF are 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) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region; (vi) Provision of 4G mobile coverage in uncovered villages and seamless 4G mobile coverage of National Highway-4 (earlier NH-223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and (vii) Scheme for Provisioning of mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages, etc..

\*\*\*\*\*