

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3256
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2022**

VILLAGES WITHOUT MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

3256. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 1787 inhabited villages in Andhra Pradesh are without mobile connectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the agreement for USOF scheme has been signed by the Government and Telecom Service Providers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government has included 1218 uncovered villages of Andhra Pradesh for provision of mobile connectivity under USOF scheme;
- (d) if so, by when would these 1218 villages have mobile connectivity; and
- (e) the details of the Government plans to provide mobile connectivity to the remaining 569 villages in Andhra Pradesh and by when this would be achieved?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As of December 2020, 1787 inhabited villages in Andhra Pradesh are without mobile connectivity, as per the data provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).
- (b) to (d) The Union Cabinet has approved a Scheme for provisioning of 4G Mobile Coverage in 7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand & Odisha to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Under this scheme, 1218 uncovered villages of Andhra Pradesh are included for providing 4G mobile coverage. The agreement for implementation of the aforesaid USOF scheme has not been signed so far. The project time-line is 18 months from the date of signing of the Agreement with the Implementing Agency for the project.
- (e) Mobile connectivity is provided by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner in the uncovered villages of the country, including in the remaining uncovered villages in Andhra Pradesh.
