

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3341
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2022**

4G MOBILE SERVICES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

3341. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:
DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:
SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the districts identified in Andhra Pradesh (AP) for implementation of the Government scheme to improve 4G mobile services in over 7,000 villages across five States including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the number of aspirational districts being covered in each of the five States;
- (c) the details of outcome of above interventions, with particular reference to identified districts in AP and the status of their progress; and
- (d) the details of any additional steps being taken to improve digital connectivity in AP?

ANSWER

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

- (a) 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 and Odisha, to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Under this scheme, identified uncovered villages of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Y.S.R. Districts of Andhra Pradesh are included for providing 4G Mobile Services.
- (b) The State-wise number of Aspirational districts covered in 7287 villages scheme, is as given below:

S. No.	State	No. of Aspirational districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Chhattisgarh	8
3.	Jharkhand	19
4.	Maharashtra	4
5.	Odisha	10
	Total	44

(c) A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been floated on 07.12.2021 for the implementation of aforesaid scheme and the same was opened on 24.02.2022. The identified uncovered villages, included in the above scheme, will be provided with 4G mobile coverage, which can be utilized for accessing various e- services such as e-education, e-health, etc.

(d) The Department of Telecom has the following additional schemes to improve digital connectivity in Andhra Pradesh:

- i. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Area Scheme Phase-II** includes installation of 2542 towers for providing 4G mobile services at the locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs across 10 States, including 346 mobile towers in Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. **BharatNet project** is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband internet connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country, including Andhra Pradesh. The scope of the project has recently been extended to all inhabited villages, beyond GPs, of the country.
