

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 52
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2022**

MOBILE TOWERS

†*52. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile towers are still not available in various remote villages across the country;
- (b) if so, the time by which the vision of communication revolution is likely to be achieved in remote villages;
- (c) whether the demand for installation of BSNL mobile towers is being raised continuously for a long time in various villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the status thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch 4G services in Satna district; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the time by which it is likely to be launched and the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) 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 (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 FOR 20TH JULY, 2022 REGARDING 'MOBILE TOWERS'.

(a) & (b) Mobile connectivity is extended by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner in the uncovered villages of the country. Presently, there are 23,54,667 Base Transceiver Stations (2G/3G/4G) of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the country. As per the data provided by TSPs and field units of the Department of Telecommunications, out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) in the country, 5,72,551 villages are covered with mobile coverage and 25,067 villages are identified as mobile uncovered villages as on 31.12.2020.

For providing mobile services in uncovered villages of the country, the Government, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), has approved Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region (NER), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area schemes, Aspirational Districts Schemes, Comprehensive Telecom development plan for Islands, etc.

BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project can be utilized by Service providers, for provisioning of broadband/internet services. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country with the timeline as 2025.

(c) In Satna District of Madhya Pradesh, out of 1799 Inhabited villages (as per census 2011), 1748 villages are covered with mobile connectivity and out of these villages, 1722 villages have 4G connectivity. Further, BSNL's mobile services cover 835 villages of Satna District.

(d) & (e) 4G services are launched by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on techno-commercial feasibility. Accordingly, 1722 out of 1799 villages in Satna are covered by 4G services.
