

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 38  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024**

**MOBILE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN BORDER AREAS**

**\*38. SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the number of border villages that do not have mobile network connectivity;
- (b) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure mobile network connectivity in strategic border areas; and
- (c) the tentative time by which all border villages will be provided with mobile network connectivity?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION  
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

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

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 FOR 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024 REGARDING “MOBILE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN BORDER AREAS.”**

(a) to (c) As per data received from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and field units of Department of Telecommunications as of May '2024, out of 17,611 villages/habitations in the border areas of the country, around 16,818 villages are having mobile coverage and out of these, 16,515 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity. Details of State/UT wise mobile coverage in villages/habitations of border areas is at **Annexure-I**.

Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner based on their techno-commercial viability. Government through funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is implementing various schemes for providing mobile network coverage to uncovered villages of the country.

Further, the Government has taken other initiatives to enhance mobile connectivity in the country including border areas. These include: -

- Licensing conditions were amended in August 2022 to facilitate installation of mobile towers in border areas.
- Issuance of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016 and amendment rules from time to time for faster and easier rollout of telecom infrastructure.
- The Right of Way (RoW) permissions for the installation of mobile towers have been facilitated by launch of Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for faster Right of Way (RoW) approvals.

**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 38 to be answered on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Mobile Network Connectivity in Border Areas"**

State/UT wise mobile coverage details of villages/habitations in border areas:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Total Villages/ Habitations</b>	<b>Villages/ Habitations having mobile coverage</b>	<b>Villages/ Habitations having 4G mobile coverage</b>
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1502	1103	965
2	Assam	1237	1237	1237
3	Bihar	1128	1128	1128
4	Gujarat	131	125	123
5	Himachal Pradesh	238	219	197
6	J&K	1827	1806	1799
7	Ladakh	117	111	94
8	Manipur	263	215	180
9	Meghalaya	1272	1247	1220
10	Mizoram	378	362	360
11	Nagaland	135	103	103
12	Punjab	1529	1529	1529
13	Rajasthan	1322	1234	1231
14	Sikkim	68	66	66
15	Tripura	345	304	303
16	UP	1196	1187	1171
17	Uttarakhand	705	626	595
18	West Bengal	4218	4216	4214
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,611</b>	<b>16,818</b>	<b>16,515</b>

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