

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2656
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024**

HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IN SOUTHERN STATES

2656 SHRI RAJA A:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by Government to ensure the availability of high-quality and high speed internet access to hilly areas, forest areas of various districts of Southern States on the Western Ghat mountains;
- (b) the details of actions taken by Government to improve mobile connectivity in challenging and remote terrains to facilitate connectivity for armed forces personnel, para military forces, forest officials and local people; and
- (c) the detailed manner in which it compares with the internet availability and internet density on the plain areas?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) Government has undertaken various measures and actions to ensure the availability of high-quality & high-speed internet access and to improve mobile connectivity in remote & rural areas of the country for all segments of the society. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity using an optimal mix of media (Optical Fibre Cable/ Radio/ Satellite) to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country and villages beyond GPs are being connected on demand basis. To provide mobile connectivity in uncovered remote & rural villages of the country various schemes have been implemented. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands and Mobile connectivity projects for Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) area, Border Out Posts (BOPs) and Border Intelligence Posts (BIPs) Project for armed forces personnel and uncovered villages areas are being implemented. The project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages & areas across the country for providing 4G mobile services is also under implementation.

(c) The internet facility provided in hilly areas, forest areas of various districts of Southern States on the Western Ghat mountains is similar to that provided in plain areas. The internet Tele-density (%) for rural & urban areas in the country is 44.16 & 111.75 respectively while the same is 80.44 & 93.85 respectively for Southern States on the Western Ghat mountains (Karnataka & Kerala).
