

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 32
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES

***32 SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any review of the decision taken by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding the expansion of communication services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of ongoing projects regarding the expansion of telephone and mobile services during the last three years and the current year, especially in Rajasthan;
- (d) the number of towers that were demanded to be installed in Churu district of Rajasthan during the last three years and the number of towers which have actually been installed indicating the time by which the remaining towers are likely to be installed, location-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has started 5G service on BSNL network and if so, the details, location and tower-wise, especially in Churu district?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) 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 (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 32 FOR 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024 REGARDING “EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES.”

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in the year 1997 by an Act of Parliament to regulate the Telecommunication services. TRAI make recommendations, either suo motu or on a request from the Government as per sections 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act. The Government takes into consideration various recommendations released by TRAI while formulating policies for expansion of communication services in the country. In last 10 years, the telecom connectivity in the Country has improved significantly, such as:

- The total number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 29.43 Lakh in November-2024.
- Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr. in March 2014 to 116.38 Cr. in August 2024.
- Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 96.96 Cr. in June-2024.
- As of September 2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), 6,22,840 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

(c) Mobile coverage is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of Mobile Towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country. The details of ongoing projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi in the country during last three years and the current year are at **Annexure-I**.

The details of ongoing projects for expansion of mobile services in Rajasthan is as follows:

- i. 354 Uncovered Village Project: The project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in uncovered areas of J&K, Ladakh, Border areas and other priority areas including Rajasthan. Under this project, as on 31.10.2024, 30 villages of Rajasthan have been covered by installation of 30 mobile towers.
- ii. 502 identified uncovered villages in Aspirational District Project: The project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in uncovered villages in the Aspirational Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan. Under this project, as on 31.10.2024, 50 villages of Rajasthan have been covered by installation of 43 mobile towers.
- iii. Saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages Project: The project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas of country including Rajasthan with additional provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc. Under this project, as on 31.10.2024, 348 villages of Rajasthan have been covered by installation of 292 mobile towers.

Further, under Phase IX.2 project of BSNL, so far, 666 mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed in Rajasthan.

(d) The details of mobile towers installed during the last three years and the current year in Churu district of Rajasthan are at **Annexure-II**.

(e) No. However, India has seen one of the fastest roll out of 5G services in the world with around 4.62 lakh BTSs deployed by other TSPs in the country, including 698 BTSs in Churu district of Rajasthan.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *32 to be answered on 27th November, 2024 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Communication Services"

Ongoing DBN projects in the country during last 3 years & current year:

Mobile Projects/ Schemes			
S. No.	Project / Scheme	Agreement Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Scope of BTS
1	502 Aspirational Districts	414	250
2	A&N Islands	130	88
3	LWE Phase-II	2,211	1,266
4	Arunachal Pradesh & Assam	1,255	773
5	7287 Aspirational Districts	3,685	3,678
6	4G Saturation	30,620	17,901
7	BOP/BIP	1,546	585
8	Lakshadweep Islands	36	37
9	LWE Phase-I Upgradation	2,426	2,343
Amended BharatNet			
S. No.	Project / Scheme	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. Cr.)	Coverage
10	Amended BharatNet Program	1,39,579	Provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *32 to be answered on 27th November, 2024 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Expansion of Communication Services"

Name of District	The number of mobile towers installed by TSPs in the last 3 years and current year			
	2021	2022	2023	Current Year 2024
Churu	142	132	116	19
