GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1475
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH DECEMBER, 2024

WI-FI AND HIGH SPEED NETWORK

†1475. DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that many remote rural areas of Maharashtra do not have Wi-Fi and other high-speed networks and mobile networks, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether it is causing a lot of hardships and miseries to the local citizens, if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem;

(d)   whether the POS machines do not work there due to lack of network resulting in non-timely distribution of ration, if so, the details thereof;

(e)   whether there is any proposal to install mobile towers in rural and remote areas in Maharashtra including Dhule Parliamentary Constituency; and

(f)   if so, the details of mobile towers installed in remote and rural areas during the last five years, district-wise ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)   Out of 43,931 villages in the State of Maharashtra (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 41,514 villages are having mobile coverage and out of these, 40,526 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity.

Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country including Maharashtra. The 4G Saturation project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in 24,680 uncovered villages in the country, including Maharashtra. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for 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.

(d)   Department of Food and Public Distribution has developed the software for Electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices wherein the facility of recording offline Fair Price shop (FPS) transactions (without biometric authentication) is available in the event of non-availability of the network in ePoS devices and this facility is available across all ePoS devices.

(e)   Under the various on-going Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded projects including 4G Saturation Project, 1,093 towers have been installed in rural and remote areas in Maharashtra, out of which, 25 towers are installed in Dhule Parliamentary Constituency.

(f)   The District wise details of mobile towers installed by TSPs in rural areas in Maharashtra during the last five years are at **Annexure-I**.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1475 to be answered on 4th December, 2024 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Wi-Fi and High Speed Network"

District wise details of mobile towers installed by TSPs in rural areas in Maharashtra during the last five years:

S. No.	District	No. of Mobile towers installed in rural area of the district during last 5 years
1	Ahmednagar	1,090
2	Akola	251
3	Amravati	485
4	Beed	667
5	Bhandara	161
6	Buldhana	578
7	Chandrapur	192
8	Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar	738
9	Dharashiv	456
10	Dhule	354
11	Gadchiroli	462
12	Gondia	247
13	Hingoli	195
14	Jalgaon	702
15	Jalna	466
16	Kolhapur	807
17	Latur	546
18	Nagpur	536
19	Nanded	665
20	Nandurbar	295
21	Nashik	1,009
22	Palghar	433
23	Parbhani	382
24	Raigad	524
25	Ratnagiri	379
26	Sangli	585
27	Satara	754
28	Sindhudurg	156
29	Solapur	889
30	Thane	471
31	Wardha	145
32	Washim	137
33	Yavatmal	528
Total		**16,285**

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