

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024**

MOBILE PHONES USED IN BHARAT

3897. Shri Balabhadra Majhi:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile phones used in Bharat;
- (b) the number of persons using it;
- (c) the number of villages that are yet to be connected with mobile phone network; and
- (d) the time by when these villages are expected to be connected by mobile phone and internet network?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The total number of mobile subscriptions in the country are around 115.12 Crores as on 31st October 2024.

(c) & (d) Out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (as per Registrar General of India), around 623622 villages are having mobile coverage as on 31st October 2024. Mobile services in an area are provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner. Further, Government is implementing various schemes / projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in rural, remote and hilly areas of the country. The details of ongoing DBN projects for expansion of mobile services in the country are as follows:

- 1) Saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages
- 2) Left Wing Extremism Phase-II
- 3) Aspirational District Project for uncovered villages
- 4) Left Wing Extremism Phase-I upgradation project.
- 5) The Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region and Islands.

In addition, BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fiber Network) being funded by Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Amended BharatNet Programme has been approved by Cabinet on 04.08.2023, for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance 42,000 GPs (approx.), Operation and Maintenance for 10 years and utilization at the total cost of Rs. 1,39,579 crores.
