

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2865
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

4G SATURATION TOWERS

**2865. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the completion of the construction of BSNL mobile towers sanctioned under 4G Saturation Project by USOF funds in Satara and Shivamogga Parliamentary Constituencies of Maharashtra and Karnataka respectively by the end of December, 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of 4G Saturation towers erected and the amount of funds granted/spent on the said project during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the work progress is hampered due to fixation of single contractor nationwide and non-engagement of more number of workers to complete before December, 2023;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action being taken to speed up the project; and
- (e) whether the Government is aware about the non providing of Radio Equipment, Solar Panels, Diesel Generators and other related equipments for starting functioning of mobile network to the completed mobile towers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (e) Telecom connectivity in Country has improved significantly in last 10 years. The total number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Station) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 25.42 Lakh in March-2023. Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr in March 2014 to 114.84 Cr. in August 2023. Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 88.12 Cr. in March-2023.

As of September '2023, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,16,300 villages are covered with mobile connectivity at a coverage of 95.7%.

In order to provide telecom connectivity in uncovered villages in the country, the Government has undertaken numerous schemes. Government has planned 41,160 towers in uncovered areas of the country to provide connectivity to more than 54,000 villages at the cost of more than Rs.41,331Cr.

As on 31.10.2023, a total of 6,394 Mobile towers have already been commissioned in the country in various schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), covering 7,535 villages including National Highway locations.

For execution these towers, Deptt of Telecom is coordinating with State governments and relevant Central Ministries. Regular coordination meetings are being held with all the stakeholders to speed-up the supply of equipment and other works.
