

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1621
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2023**

MOBILE SERVICES IN REMOTE VILLAGES

†1621. **SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mobile services are functioning smoothly in the remote villages of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of remaining villages in Madhya Pradesh particularly in Gwalior and Shivpuri districts which are deprived of mobile services; and
- (c) the target fixed by the Government to expand the mobile network services to the said villages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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 Madhya Pradesh out of 55,058 villages, 53,119 villages are covered with mobile connectivity including 1,852 villages of Gwalior and Shivpuri districts.

To improve telecom connectivity across India, Bharatnet Project has connected 2.07 lakh villages. The scope has been expanded recently to cover all inhabitant villages at the total outlay of Rs. 1.88 Lakh Cr. As on 31.10.2023, 6,394 Mobile towers have already been commissioned covering 7,535 villages including National Highway locations.

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.
