

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2989  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**BSNL MOBILE TOWERS**

**2989. SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that BSNL mobile towers have been sanctioned to Shivamogga Parliamentary Constituency under the 4G saturation project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time line to complete the construction;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note that the progress of the work is very slow and unable to meet the time-frame;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that the work is completed as per the tender schedule; and
- (e) 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.

The Government has taken numerous initiatives for faster rollout of telecom infrastructure including laying of Optical Fibre Cable. These initiatives include launch of Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal and issuance of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016 as amended from time to time. As a result, the Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity in the country has improved significantly over the last 10 years.

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

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