

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2807
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

BSNL 5G/4G MOBILE NETWORK

†2807. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several villages in Dahod district of Gujarat do not have BSNL 5G/4G mobile network or internet connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of such villages with or without internet connectivity; and
- (d) the efforts being made by the Government to provide mobile and internet connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Telecom connectivity in the 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 crore in March, 2014 to 114.84 crore in August, 2023. Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 crore in March, 2014 to 88.12 crore 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 Gujarat, out of total 18425 villages, 17,892 villages are covered with mobile connectivity including 571 villages of Dahod District.

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. 41,331 crore.

Further, in accordance with Atmanirbhar initiative of the Government, BSNL has placed purchase order for 1 Lakh indigenously developed sites to rollout 4G services. This equipment is upgradable to 5G.
