

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 882
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

HIGH SPEED NETWORK

†882. **SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Wi-Fi and other high speed network and mobile network are not operating at present in distant rural areas of the country particularly in Ramtek-Nagpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the people of the rural area have to face many difficulties and problems just because of it, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether POS mechanism do not work there for want of network as a result of which distribution of ration does not take place, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for installing mobile tower in Maharashtra including Ramtek-Nagpur Parliamentary Constituency; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, district and State-wise of mobile towers installed in the rural areas of Maharashtra including Ramtek-Nagpur Lok Sabha Constituency during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) Telecom connectivity in the Country has improved significantly in last 10 years:
- The total number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 28.78 Lakh in December-2023.
 - Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr. in March 2014 to 115.41 Cr. in November 2023.
 - Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 89.58 Cr. in June-2023.
 - As of November 2023, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,17,150 villages i.e. 95.8% are covered with mobile connectivity.

To further improve telecom connectivity in the country, Government is implementing various schemes.

- A total of 41,160 mobile towers have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 41,331 Cr to provide 4G connectivity to about 55 thousand villages.
- Scope of BharatNet program has been expanded to connect all inhabited villages with an outlay of Rs. 1.88 Lakh Cr.

Relevant details of district /state wise connectivity is available on DoT website.
