

for better access for service providers such as telecom operators, cable TV operators, e-commerce companies, etc. to launch new services and in turn aid creation of local employment opportunities. Other flagship schemes of the Government like Digital India, Make-in-India and Smart Cities also are expected to create many employment opportunities in telecom sector.

India's Digital Communications Sector is playing a pivotal role in the growth of Digital Financial Services (DFS), Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS), and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication services being used in the infrastructure sectors of the economy. These services and applications are likely to create a significant number of new jobs in the Indian economy in the near future.

NDCP, 2018 also envisages to harness the power of emerging Next Generation Digital Technologies including 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud and Big Data by promoting Investments, Innovation and IPR, which in turn, is expected to generate employment opportunities.

(c) and (d) 76,359 jobs have been created since 2018-19 in telecom sector:—

The number of jobs directly and indirectly created in telecom sector in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are as under:—

Sl.No.	Year	Direct Jobs	Indirect Jobs	Total
1.	2018-19	15954	24491	40445
2.	2019-20	12470	23444	35914
TOTAL		28424	47935	76359

It is further submitted that above are the jobs created that have been captured from major Telecom Service Providers to the extent maintained by them.

Mobile services in villages of Andhra Pradesh

2883. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 16,158 villages in Andhra Pradesh, mobile services are provided only in 14,000 villages;

- (b) if so, by when the mobile services in other villages are going to be provided;
- (c) whether it is a fact that not even a single village has WiFi facility under BharatNet; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the Ministry is going to install WiFi facilities in all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that out of 16,158 inhabited villages (as per census 2011 data) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 14,063 inhabited villages are covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in the remaining villages is being taken up by the Government and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile Connectivity through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband access technology is to be provided in all the Gram Panchayats. In the BharatNet Phase-I which covers 1.23 lakh GPs (approx.) the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services has been assigned to Government of Rajasthan (for 10,000 GPs in Rajasthan) and rest to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) including over 1400 GPs in Andhra Pradesh. In the 1407 GPs of BharatNet Phase-II, the provisioning of connectivity over satellite media, along with Wi-Fi services, has been assigned to BSNL. As of February 2020, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 Gram Panchayats (GPs) and out of them, services are being provided in 18,683 GPs.

Conditions of buildings of Post Offices

2884. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Post Offices which are providing all services are working in shaky, old and dilapidated buildings in the country;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to assess the conditions of the buildings where Post Offices are functioning in the country;