

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

**NON-AVAILABILITY OF HIGH SPEED AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICES IN
RURAL AREAS**

331 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many parts of the country such as rural areas does not have high speed affordable internet services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present situation of high speed internet connection;
- (c) whether Government is considering to provide fiber high speed internet services in every part of the country with the help of RailTel Corporation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) & (b) High speed internet facility is being provided by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) through mobile wireless 3G and 4G technologies and fixed wireline broadband. As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), it is estimated that 37,439 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the country are not covered by 3G/4G mobile connectivity. As per the latest Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators report of TRAI dated 21st January 2021, there are 27.69 Cr rural and 44.94 Cr urban high speed internet (broadband) subscribers in the country as on 30.09.2020.

(c) & (d) Under Phase-I of the BharatNet Project, work of providing broadband infrastructure for 11,106 Gram panchayats(GPs) in 7 states and 2 UTs (i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry and Tripura) was assigned to RailTel Corporation.
