

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

4G AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN MAHARASHTRA

333 DR. BHAGWAT KARAD:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are specific plans to improve connectivity in the State of Maharashtra with 4G connectivity and if so, details thereof;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra where there is no mobile connectivity / broadband connectivity;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide mobile / broadband connectivity in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government is having any plan to improve quality of data connectivity in rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) 4G connectivity is being provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in all States including Maharashtra. Further, under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), Left Wing Extremism (LWE-II) scheme has provision for 2,542 towers at locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for providing mobile services with 4G connectivity including 125 towers in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) Out of 27,909 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State of Maharashtra, 1,362 GPs do not have mobile connectivity and 2,163 GPs do not have broadband connectivity. To provide connectivity and to improve quality of data, apart from part (a), following steps are being taken by the Government:-

- (i) Under USOF, BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband/high speed internet infrastructure and connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country including 27,909 GPs in the State of Maharashtra.
- (ii) Government has approved PM-WANI scheme for providing broadband through public Wi-Fi networks which will enable proliferation of Broadband internet through public Wi-Fi hotspots in the country including the rural areas of Maharashtra.
