

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1976
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

**INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS IN FAR FLUNG VILLAGES AND
EACH GRAM PANCHAYAT**

**1976 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to install mobile towers in every Gram Panchayat of the country to fulfill the demand of digitalization and strengthen the rural banking system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide mobile towers in those far flung villages of the country where these towers are not available till now; and
- (d) the proposed timeline for installing mobile towers in every far flung village and each Gram Panchayat region of the country?

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

(a) to (d) Mobile connectivity is provided by Telecom Service Providers on techno commercial basis in a phased manner in the uncovered villages of the country and by the Government, in the remaining uncovered villages through schemes under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The following schemes are implemented with USOF support:

1. 354 Uncovered Villages Scheme: Under this scheme villages of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and other priority areas are to be covered.
2. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region and Islands.
3. Schemes for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and Aspirational Districts.
4. Further, The Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. The project has a provision to include additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G. The project will be executed by BSNL with a timeline of completion in 500 days and will be funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.
