

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 58
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS IN VILLAGES

58 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of villages in the country including Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu, where telecommunication towers have been set up during each of the last five years and the current year, State/UT- wise and Telecom Company-wise;
- (b) whether the telecommunication network condition/position in the villages is poor and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is formulating any action plan to improve the telecommunication network in such areas and if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) 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% villages are covered with mobile connectivity.
 - Under BharatNet project, more than 2.1 lakh villages have been made service ready.

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 1.88 Lakh Cr.
