

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 861  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**VILLAGES COVERED UNDER BHARATNET PROJECT**

**861 Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that still many villages in the country do not have broadband connectivity in the country;
- (b) the salient features of the BharatNet Project;
- (c) the total number of village panchayats that have been covered under the project so far, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of the funds released and spent under the project since inception; State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) Telecom connectivity in India has improved significantly in last 10 years, outlined as follows:

	May 2014	Dec 2023
Number of Base Transceiver stations	6.49 Lakh	28 Lakh
Optical fiber laid	10.62 Lakh Km	39 Lakh Km
Internet users	25.15 Cr	88.12 Cr
Cost of data	Rs. 269/ Gb	Rs. 9.94/ Gb
Median internet speed	1.3 Mbps	75.8 Mbps
Gram Panchayats connected under BharatNet	58	2.10 Lakh

5G services were launched in India on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Within a span of 14 months, more than 4.2 Lakh 5G sites are providing connectivity across 742 districts. This is the fastest roll-out of 5G anywhere in the world.

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.

Recently, Government has amended the BharatNet Program to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh crores as follows:

- Upgradation of existing BharatNet network.
- Focus on utilization of the network through BharatNet Udyamis i.e. village level entrepreneurs.
- Operation and Maintenance of the entire network.
- Dedicated Network Operation centre.
- Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
- To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections

Relevant state wise details of BharatNet scheme are available on DoT website.

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