

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2024**

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS

456 DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure sufficient digital connectivity to the rural population as only 33 per cent of the rural population in the country has access to the internet; and
- (b) the other effective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) As of April 2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (villages data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,20,629 villages i.e., 96.35 % villages are having mobile connectivity in the country with 6,12,952 villages having 3G/4G mobile network coverage indicating access to internet to 95.15 % of the total rural population.

To further improve telecom connectivity in the country, Government is implementing various schemes like: -

- Provision of mobile connectivity project under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region and Islands and Mobile connectivity projects for providing telecommunication connectivity in Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) area, Border Areas and 4G saturation project.
- BharatNet project which aims to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages.
