

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2107**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

**DIGITAL LITERACY**

**2107. SHRI RAJVEER DILER:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any rise in digital literacy in the country during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the speed of internet especially in the rural areas;
- (c) the number of villages where high speed internet facility is already available or being made available along with number of villages where the said facility is yet to be provided, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, including Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): India over the last 9 years has become a pre-eminent nation in deploying technologies for the benefit and transforming the lives of its citizens. Keeping this in view, the Government is focusing on providing digital literacy to citizens across the country, especially in rural areas. In line with this, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched in February 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India with a target to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. Under this Scheme, as of now, more than 7.04 crore candidates have been enrolled, 6.07 crore have been trained and 4.52 crore candidates have been duly certified. During the last three years, digital literacy has been provided to a total of more than 2.88 crore beneficiaries, out of which 2.22 crore candidates have been duly certified. The year-wise details are given below: -

Year	Registered	Trained	Certified
FY 2020-21	1,08,91,488	97,05,343	73,07,927
FY 2021-22	1,11,73,679	98,41,726	76,13,672
FY 2022-23	1,02,56,353	92,83,042	73,39,079
Total	3,23,21,520	2,88,30,111	2,22,60,678

(b) to (d): Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communication has informed that the “BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs)/ Villages with broadband. This infrastructure is leased to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/ Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for provision of internet connectivity in GPs/ rural areas including post offices/ other Government institutions/ villages, schools, and private connections etc. As of June, 2023, 1,94,909 GPs are made service ready under BharatNet project in the country.

Further, various projects including Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands and Mobile connectivity projects are implemented under USOF, DoT for connectivity of Rural and Remote areas of the country including Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) area, Border Areas and other unconnected/ underserved areas. Further, the State/UT wise details of mobile internet connectivity are at **Annexure**.

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**Annexure**

As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecommunications field units and State Governments, as of March '2022, out of 6,44,131 villages (villages are as per data of

Registrar General of India as of November 2019), around 6,05,230 number of villages are covered with mobile internet(2G/3G/4G) connectivity. The State/UT wise details of mobile internet connectivity are as below:

S. No.	State Name	No. of villages (as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019)	No. of villages Covered with mobile connectivity (March-22)	No. of villages Covered with 2G (March-22)	No. of villages Covered with 3G (March-22)	No. of villages Covered with 4G (March-22)	No. of villages Covered with 3G or 4G or both (March-22)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	559	298	297	81	105	150
2	Andhra Pradesh	17328	14357	14016	9372	14159	14174
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5993	2912	2800	1410	2262	2371
4	Assam	26429	24346	24024	17146	24223	24266
5	Bihar	44888	44634	44406	32966	44575	44577
6	Chhattisgarh	20072	18185	17181	12875	17482	17562
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	95	62	62	57	62	62
8	Goa	392	351	346	333	342	348
9	Gujarat	18425	17858	17519	16508	17604	17704
10	Haryana	6640	6633	6611	6505	6629	6631
11	Himachal Pradesh	20852	19370	18871	13745	18970	19037
12	Jammu and Kashmir	6474	5652	5364	3690	5643	5645
13	Jharkhand	32370	30298	28178	7147	30050	30052
14	Karnataka	29818	28697	27951	10863	28634	28652
15	Kerala	1438	1385	1385	1370	1358	1384
16	Ladakh	243	124	113	20	92	93
17	Lakshadweep	27	23	22	15	10	23
18	Madhya Pradesh	55058	51966	49632	39298	51818	51849
19	Maharashtra	43931	40810	40150	38070	40138	40591
20	Manipur	2612	2142	1904	921	2069	2081
21	Meghalaya	7100	4672	3468	1562	4580	4598
22	Mizoram	867	626	411	122	618	623
23	Nagaland	1535	1115	1070	550	1073	1083
24	NCT of Delhi	55	55	55	55	55	55
25	Odisha	51176	44584	40326	16624	43584	43656
26	Puducherry	96	95	95	82	95	95
27	Punjab	12534	12524	12519	12441	12519	12519
28	Rajasthan	46077	42761	41226	28688	42343	42365
29	Sikkim	461	157	156	129	157	157
30	Tamil Nadu	16488	16104	16000	15687	15916	16010
31	Telangana	10203	10000	9848	8452	9951	9964
32	Tripura	937	638	585	340	638	638
33	Uttar Pradesh	105531	105257	105222	103012	105146	105156
34	Uttarakhand	16456	15701	15568	12953	15215	15377
35	West Bengal	40971	40838	40804	36882	40836	40836
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>644131</b>	<b>605230</b>	<b>588185</b>	<b>449971</b>	<b>598951</b>	<b>600384</b>

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