

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1211
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 14.12.2022

DIGITAL ACCESS TO VILLAGES

1211. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a better digital future can be built only by ensuring availability of comprehensive digital infrastructure, development of digital platform and access of all to digital services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is working on a plan to extend mobile services to all villages in the country by 2023 and optical fibre by 2025 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of fibre to be extended to all the villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand by the year 2025?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, Sir. One of the important objectives of Digital India programme is to transform the lives of Indian citizens and improve governance and democracy by ensuring digital services, digital access, bridging the digital divide, digital inclusion and digital empowerment. Towards this, various digital initiatives for strengthening the digital infrastructure providing government services through platforms and creation of India Stack have been taken by the Government of India. Some of the key platforms along with their web links are as under:

- (i) Aadhaar platform: <https://uidai.gov.in/>
- (ii) Unified Payments Interface (UPI): <https://www.bhimupi.org.in/>
- (iii) Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG): <https://web.umang.gov.in/landing/>
- (iv) Digital seva platform: <https://digitalseva.csc.gov.in/>
- (v) DigiLocker: <https://www.digilocker.gov.in/>
- (vi) MyScheme: <https://www.myscheme.gov.in/>

(b): Yes, Sir. As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and field units of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), as of December 2020, out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2011, an estimated 25,067 villages did not have mobile connectivity. Out of these 25,067 uncovered villages, around 11,000 villages have since been included in Universal Service Obligation Fund schemes. Uncovered villages are covered by the Government and TSPs in a phased manner.

For optical fibre connectivity, DoT is implementing BharatNet project in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all inhabited villages.

(c): BharatNet is providing broadband/Optical Fibre Connectivity (OFC) to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Details of fibre extended in the villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, as on 28.11.2022, are as under:

S. No.	State	Total Planned GPs	OFC laid (km)	Service-ready GPs on OFC	Service-ready GPs on satellite	Total Service-ready GPs (OFC + satellite)
1	Bihar	8,404	27,413	8,300	16	8,316
2	Jharkhand	4,399	16,745	4,333	2	4,335
3	Uttar Pradesh	59,365	1,03,950	39,785	33	39,818

Source: DoT
