

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1930
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2024**

GROWTH OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES

1930 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to achieve the projected growth rate of India's fixed communication services revenue, as forecasted to reach \$13.2 billion by 2028;
- (b) the steps taken to leverage this projected growth to enhance infrastructure development in rural and underserved areas of Karnataka; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken to encourage investment and innovation in fixed communication services to meet the forecasted revenue target?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No such study which forecasts the growth rate of India's fixed communication service revenue has been carried out by the government.
- (b) to (c) The details of the measures taken by the government to enhance development of fixed communication services infrastructure, encourage investment and innovation in fixed communication services are as below:
 - (i) To facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 on 17th August 2022 and 7th August 2023. These amendments paved the way for deployment of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on existing street infrastructure and also rationalized the fees and charges paid by the Telecom Licensees for the Right of Way (RoW) permissions.
 - (ii) Launch of GatiShakti Sanchar Portal to facilitate Ease of Doing Business for the applicants for quick RoW permissions.
 - (iii) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages beyond GPs on demand basis all over the country (including Karnataka). This infrastructure can be leased by Telecom Service Providers/Internet Service Providers for provision of internet connectivity in GPs/rural areas. In Karnataka as of June 2024, out of 6090 GPs planned, 6084 GPs have been made service ready. As on 01.07.2024, 10,49,723 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided using BharatNet (including 48,094 FTTH connections in Karnataka).
 - (iv) A pilot project funded from Digital Bharat Nidhi (Erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)) for rolling out of 5 lakh Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband connections in Gram Panchayats/villages (including Karnataka) using BharatNet through BharatNet Udyamis has been given to BSNL.
