

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1611
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2025**

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1611 SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 1,500 villages in Andhra Pradesh are deprived of telecommunication facilities;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Visakhapatnam district has the highest number of villages (1,000) which do not have telecommunication facilities; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any target has been fixed by the Ministry to cover all these districts with telecommunication facilities?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As of January 2025, out of 17,328 villages in Andhra Pradesh (as per data of Registrar General of India), 16,349 villages are covered with mobile connectivity. In Visakhapatnam district, out of 3,261 villages, 2,655 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country, including Andhra Pradesh. As on February 2025, 1,668 towers have been commissioned in Andhra Pradesh under DBN funded mobile schemes, providing 4G mobile coverage to 2,846 villages.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis.
