

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3695
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD APRIL, 2025**

OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL AND REMOTE REGIONS

3695 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy to extend optical fibre cables connectivity to rural and remote regions in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the developments made under the Telecom Technology Development Fund scheme (TTDF), in the field of telecom technology during the last two years; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to increase collaboration between industry and academia under TTDF in the telecom sector across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country including rural and remote regions in Himachal Pradesh. Further, Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023 covering Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country on ring network, up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, and connectivity to remaining non-GP villages on demand basis.

(c) & (d) The telecom technology development fund (TTDF) scheme aims to fund research and development (R&D) in rural-specific communication technologies, fostering collaboration between academia, start-ups, research institutes, and industry. Since the launch of the scheme in Oct-2022, Government has approved 132 proposals of academia/ start-ups/ research institutes/ industry in the field of telecom.
