

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 977
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF BIHAR

977 # DR. BHIM SINGH:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken to increase digital connectivity in rural and remote areas of the country; and
- (b) the number of villages that have been connected with digital connectivity in the State of Bihar so far under these efforts and the manner in which major challenges are being addressed in these projects?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country under 4G saturation project. In addition, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages on demand basis.
- (b) As of November '2024, a total of 44,752 villages out of 44,888 villages (villages are as per data of Registrar General of India), are having mobile connectivity in the State of Bihar. Till December 2024, 175 villages have been covered with 4G mobile services under these schemes. In addition, Government has notified Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 and GatiShakti Sanchar Portal (Centralized Portal for Right of Way (RoW) Permissions) for quick RoW permissions for laying OFC and erecting Telecom towers.
