

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 979
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

**MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN COMMERCIALY UNVIALE RURAL AND REMOTE
AREAS**

979 SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey of commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken any initiatives to provide telecom/mobile services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to improve mobile connectivity in rural and remote areas, particularly for education and healthcare services, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) For planning of new schemes for extending telecom services, in the commercially unviable rural, remote and underserved areas through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), various inputs such as periodic coverage reports from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), references from States/Union Territories (UTs), recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are used. Before implementation of schemes funded by DBN, the implementing agencies conduct survey for ensuring targeted implementation.

To improve telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country, Government has taken up many mobile projects for provisioning of mobile services with funding from DBN. To cover uncovered remote and rural villages / locations 16,825 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country. State/UT-wise details are available at DBN website <https://usof.gov.in/en/home>.

The services through these towers can be used for various purposes, including education and healthcare services.
