

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2095
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

2095 SHRI SAMIRUL ISLAM:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers installed under Universal Service Obligation Fund since 2020;
- (b) the details of internet penetration in rural areas;
- (c) the status of BharatNet projects across the country; and
- (d) the details of telecom coverage expansion in West Bengal compared to national average in the last three financial years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) (erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)), 19,285 mobile towers have been commissioned since 2020.
- (b) As on 31.03.2025, there are 40.769 crore rural internet connections across the country.
- (c) Under BharatNet Project, 2,14,325 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready across the country, as on 30.06.2025.
- (d) The overall telecom tele-density (in %) for the State of West Bengal as compared with National average telecom tele-density for the last three Financial Years are as below:

| Financial Year | West Bengal State | Pan India |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 2024-25 | 80.28 | 85.04 |
| 2023-24 | 82.06 | 85.69 |
| 2022-23 | 81.36 | 84.51 |
