

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2096  
ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**BHARATNET PHASE-III IN UTTARAKHAND**

**2096 # DR. KALPANA SAINI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats and villages that will be connected under BharatNet Phase-III and the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the number of villages and Gram Panchayats of Uttarakhand State that will be connected under this scheme;
- (c) whether Uttarakhand will also get special benefits in 5G/6G services and capacity enhancement of mobile towers from this project; and
- (d) the technical or administrative challenges identified to ensure connectivity in hilly and remote areas under the project and the measures being taken to resolve them?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Amended BharatNet program (ABP) is being implemented to provide connectivity to remaining Gram panchayats GPs and villages on demand basis. Under the ABP around 2.65 lakh GPs are proposed to be connected in ring network. The remaining 3.8 lakh villages are proposed to be connected on demand basis. State/UT-wise list of Gram Panchayats (GPs) provided with broadband connectivity under the BharatNet project is available on Digital Bharat Nidhi website (<https://usof.gov.in/en/home>).
- (b) & (c) In Uttarakhand 5,943 GPs are proposed to be connected under ABP and connectivity to villages will be provided on demand basis.
- (d) Difficult terrains, including hilly and rocky areas, as well as widely dispersed villages, have posed several challenges during the implementation of the project. These include issues such as fiber cuts, delays in obtaining Right of Way (RoW) permissions, and limited accessibility.

To address these challenges, coordinated efforts are made with the State Implementing Agency, regular review meetings are conducted, and alternative technologies such as VSAT are implemented.

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