

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3212
ANSWERED ON 21ST AUGUST, 2025**

TELECOM IN THE NORTH EASTERN REGION

3212 SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in North Eastern Region (NER) that remain unconnected by 4G or broadband services as of June 2025, State-wise;
- (b) whether the DoNER Ministry has collaborated with Department of Telecommunications or Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to address this gap;
- (c) the implementation status of projects sanctioned under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the NER; and
- (d) steps taken to ensure digital services for education, healthcare and e-governance in remote and border districts?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) As of June 2025, out of 45,934 villages in the North Eastern Region (as per data of Registrar General of India), 42,093 villages are covered with mobile connectivity and out of these, 40,663 villages have 4G mobile connectivity. The State-wise mobile coverage status in North Eastern Region (NER) is at **Annexure**.

Mobile coverage for any uncovered inhabited villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on the techno-commercial viability. Government, through funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), is implementing various projects/schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in the rural, remote and border areas of the country, including the NER.

The DBN projects under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the NER are for providing mobile connectivity to uncovered villages and areas along National Highways with the objective of extending mobile network access to underserved population in the region. As on June 2025, 2,485 mobile towers have been commissioned under DBN schemes in NER, providing mobile connectivity to 3,389 villages/locations.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis. As of June 2025, 6,355 GPs have been made service ready and 12,283 FTTH connections have been provided under BharatNet project in NER.

The telecom connectivity provided under DBN projects has led to equitable access to communications and digital services for education, healthcare, and e-governance in remote and border districts.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3212 answered on 21st August, 2025 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Telecom in the North Eastern Region"

State-wise mobile coverage status in North Eastern Region (NER)

State	Total no. of villages (as per RGI data)	No. of Villages having mobile connectivity	No. of villages having 4G coverage
Arunachal Pradesh	5993	4258	3094
Assam	26429	26007	25934
Manipur	2612	2219	2132
Meghalaya	7100	6424	6394
Mizoram	867	755	749
Nagaland	1535	1235	1213
Sikkim	461	453	442
Tripura	937	742	705
Total	45,934	42,093	40,663
