

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 496
ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2025**

**MAJOR SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES LAUNCHED BY DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

496 # DR. KALPANA SAINI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major schemes and initiatives launched by the Department of Telecommunications during the last five years that have improved digital communication and internet connectivity in the country;
- (b) the impact of the above schemes in hilly States like Uttarakhand; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to strengthen the communication network during natural calamities like rain and landslides in Uttarakhand, in order to enhance the speed and effectiveness of disaster management?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Government is implementing various schemes for provision of 4G mobile services including 4G saturation project under Digital Bharat Nidhi for expansion of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country. 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. A total of 505 towers have been installed and commissioned covering 1108 villages in the State of Uttarakhand.
- (c) In order to enhance the speed and effectiveness of disaster management during calamities across country including State of Uttarakhand, the Department of Telecommunications has put in place several measures under the Standard Operating Procedure-2020 for responding to disasters. These include Intra-Circle Roaming (ICR) among Telecom Service Providers to ensure uninterrupted connectivity for affected users, deployment of Portable Base Trans receivers (BTSs) and Mobile Diesel Generator (DG) sets to restore services in inaccessible areas, and implementation of Priority Call Routing (PCR) to facilitate reliable communication for first responders and emergency personnel. Additionally, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has deployed application which is widely used by State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) for disseminating early warning messages to the public in affected areas, thereby supporting timely evacuation and relief measures.
