

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 500  
ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025**

**PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND VIABILITY OF RURAL 5G EXPANSION**

**500 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has introduced targeted policies or incentives to attract private investment in rural 5G expansion, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which Government has addressed concerns raised by telecom service providers regarding the commercial viability of deploying 5G in low-population density and remote areas;
- (c) whether any viability gap funding, infrastructure sharing models, or Public-Private Partnerships have been proposed or implemented to support rural 5G rollout, and the progress made; and
- (d) the number of rural districts currently covered by 5G services, and the roadmap and timelines for ensuring universal 5G access in underserved regions?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) Government has taken several policy initiatives for proliferation of 5G services across the country, including in the rural areas, which, inter alia, include the following:
- i. Auction of spectrum for 5G mobile services.
  - ii. Financial reforms to rationalize Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), Bank Guarantees (BGs) and interest rates.
  - iii. Removal of Spectrum Usage Charges for spectrum acquired in auction of 2022 and thereafter.
  - iv. Simplification of procedure for SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations) clearance.
  - v. Launch of PM GatiShakti Sanchar portal and RoW(Right of Way) Rules to streamline RoW permissions and clearance of installation of telecom infrastructure.
  - vi. Time-bound permission for use of street furniture for installation of small cells and telecommunication line.

- vii. Sharing of active and passive infrastructure has been permitted to the authorised service providers based on its service authorization.

Further, hundred 5G Use Case labs have been set up at Higher Educational Institutions across the country. Collaboration has been done for capacity building and skill development with international companies such as Ericsson and Qualcomm for development of 5G use cases.

(d) As a result of above mentioned initiatives, 5G services have been rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country and presently it is available in 99.8% of the districts in the country. Further, as on 30.06.2025, 4.86 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) across the country, including in rural areas.

TSPs have expanded the 5G services across the country, including in the rural areas, and have gone beyond the minimum rollout obligations, as prescribed in the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for spectrum auction. Expansion of mobile services beyond these obligations depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the TSPs.

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