GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289
ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2025

DELAY IN COUNTRY-WIDE 5G ROLLOUT AND OPTICAL FIBRE EXPANSION UNDER BHARATNET

1289 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of nationwide 5G rollout and the steps taken to address delays highlighted in recent TRAI assessments and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) reviews, including the current status of optical-fibre expansion under BharatNet Phase-II and the challenges identified at the national level;

(b) whether any plans exist to expedite last-mile broadband connectivity in Auraiya district, particularly under the Gram Panchayat-level fibre-laying component of BharatNet; and

(c) whether the Ministry proposes community digital awareness programmes in the district to support effective utilisation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 5G services have been rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country and presently it is available in 99.9% of the districts in the country. As on 31.10.2025, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have installed 5.08 Lakhs 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) across the country.

To accelerate the expansion of 5G services across the country, Government has taken several initiatives 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 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.

Under BharatNet Phase-II, total of 89,691 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service-ready by laying of 3,82,422 km of optical fibre as of November-2025. Further, challenges being faced in expansion of BharatNet Project, *inter-alia*, includes following :

i. Widely dispersed GPs across remote corners of the country, covering difficult terrains (including Hilly/ Rocky).
ii. Difficulty in accessing Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
iii. Difficulty in meeting the targeted timelines by State Governments. It is to mention that under BharatNet Phase-II, about 65,000 GPs in 8 States are being implemented by the State Governments under State-led model.

Under Amended BharatNet Program, BSNL have been providing Fibre to the home (FTTH) connections using BharatNet Udyamies (BNUs) model in Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. As of now, around 235 Bharatnet FTTH connections by BSNL are working in Auraiya district. Moreover, to generate demand in GPs/villages, BSNL and BNUs are educating rural inhabitants about the benefits and use cases of internet.

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