

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2087
ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2025**

EXPANSION OF BROADBAND AND MOBILE CONNECTIVITY UNDER USOF

**2087# SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of broadband and mobile connectivity expansion funded through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), including the number of villages provided with 4G/5G coverage and broadband access during the last three years;
- (b) the State-wise details of mobile towers commissioned in rural, remote, tribal and hilly regions through USOF support, along with the timelines for completion of ongoing 4G saturation projects;
- (c) the steps taken under USOF to accelerate broadband penetration in rural India; and
- (d) the measurable outcomes of USOF-funded schemes during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) For providing high bandwidth capacity internet/broadband connectivity & mobile services and to accelerate broadband penetration in remote & rural villages including Islands, in the country a number of steps & projects have been taken up through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)] support by the Government. Some of the projects have already been completed and many are under implementation. Details of the major projects are as follows:

- i. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs), including rural areas, in the country. As of Nov-2025; 2,14,904 GPs have been made service ready and 13,92,767 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided under BharatNet project in the country including 6,26,148 FTTH connections during the last three years. Further, Amended BharatNet Program (ABP), approved by the Government on 04.08.2023, is under implementation for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance GPs and on demand basis in remaining non-GP villages from their respective GPs. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been nominated as the Project Management Agency and will also have target of providing 1.50 crore FTTH connections to households in next five years.

- ii.** Under 4G Saturation Scheme and other Mobile projects, till Nov-2025, 23,280 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country and during the last three years 29,009 villages have been covered with 4G. The expected timeline for completion of ongoing 4G saturation projects is December 2026. The State-wise details of mobile towers commissioned in rural, remote, tribal and hilly regions through DBN support is available on DBN website (<https://usof.gov.in/en/home>).

- iii.** Commissioning of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2312 Km) and between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (1869 km) for providing high speed internet/data & other services to the Islands.
