

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2097
ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2025**

UNDERUTILISATION OF FUNDS

2097 SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the communication sector shows expenditure of only 26.42 percent of revised cost as of August 2025;
- (b) the reasons for underutilization, project-wise, including way-leave delays and vendor performance; and
- (c) the specific milestones to achieve service readiness, especially under BharatNet where expenditure is ₹41,486 crores against a revised cost of ₹1,88,000 crores (22.1 per cent)?

ANSWER

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

- a. It is submitted that as of August 2025, expenditure of Department of Telecommunications was 33.42 per cent. Further, as of 09-12-2025, 39.53 per cent of total allocated BE 2025-26 has been utilized.
- b. The reasons for under-utilization of funds in r/o the projects where under-utilization has taken place is attached as **Annexure I**.
- c. Total of ₹1.88 lakh crores has been approved by Union Cabinet for Bharat Net Project including ₹1.39 lakh crore for Amended Bharat Net Programme. As on 30.11.2025, a total of ₹47,096.18 crore has been disbursed under Bharat Net project (including ABP). The achievements under BharatNet as of November, 2025 has been attached as **Annexure II**.

i. Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure:

The under-utilization is due to delay in getting land allocation, Forest/Wildlife & RoW permission, security issues in LWE areas, development and supply of indigenous 4G stack, Remote and inaccessibility issues etc.

ii. Optical Fibre Cable Based Network for Defence Services:

The delays in the NFS project are due to several factors, including road-widening activities carried out by state and local authorities, additional hardware requirements raised by the Defence Forces and delays in obtaining Scientific Analysis Group (SAG) approvals etc.

iii. Domestic Industry Incentivisation Schemes:

Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI)

The utilization under the scheme depends on the actual investment and sales achieved by the PLI beneficiary companies.

iv. Capital Infusion in BSNL:

The underutilization of budget under 4G project is due to pendency of 4G Proof of Concept.

v. Financial Relief/Infusion to Indian Telephone industries Limited:

The under-utilization of funds by ITI Ltd. is due to inadequacy of working capital to execute the Capex plan.

Annexure-II

As of November, 2025, the achievements under BharatNet are given below :

| OFC laid (km) | Service Ready GPs |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 6,94,871 | 2,14,904 |

| S. No. | Utilization Model | Utilization |
|--------|--|-------------|
| 1 | FTTH connections provided | 13,94,005 |
| 2 | Dark Fibre leased (fibre Kms) | 1,18,245 |
| 3 | Leasing of Bandwidth (in Mbps) | 3,92,141 |
| 4 | FTTH Data consumption (Oct-25) (in TB) | 1,64,600 |
