

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 18
ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026**

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

**18 SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:
SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:
SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether applications for grant of Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licences have been received for operations in States including the State of Gujarat;
- (b) the number of such applications received so far and those under examination;
- (c) how satellite-based internet services are expected to enhance digital connectivity, last-mile access and service delivery in rural, coastal, border and remote areas including Gujarat;
- (d) whether Government has formulated a structured framework for scaling public-private partnerships in satellite-based digital communication services; and
- (e) if so, the salient features, timelines and expected outcomes thereof particularly for underserved regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) During the last five years, Nelco Limited, Yotta Network Services Private Limited, OneWeb India Communications Private Limited, JIO Satellite Communications Limited, Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited, Amazon Kuiper Services India Private Limited, and Connect4sure Technologies Private Limited have applied to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for grant of Unified License (UL) with authorization for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service for national service area, including Gujarat.

After examination of these applications, DoT has issued Unified License (UL) with authorisation for GMPCS service to three companies, namely OneWeb India Communications Private Limited, JIO Satellite Communications Limited, and Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited. The applications of Nelco Limited and Yotta Network Services Private Limited have been rejected, whereas Connect4sure Technologies Private Limited has withdrawn its application. The application of Amazon Kuiper Services India Private Limited is under examination.

(c) to (e) Satellite-based communication services can provide connectivity in rural, underserved and unserved areas, including remote, coastal, border and mountainous regions of the country, which otherwise are difficult to be covered through terrestrial media such as optical fiber, microwave, etc. It is also mentioned that as per the License conditions, the licensee will provide satellite-based communication services without any discrimination from any applicant at any place in the service area for the service(s) authorized. This will support in bridging the digital divide, addressing the last mile connectivity issues and promoting equitable access to digital services.
