

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3061  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**STRENGTHENING MOBILE NETWORK IN RURAL AREAS**

**3061 # SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that various rural and remote areas of the country, especially many parts of Uttar Pradesh, still face the lack of basic mobile network (2G/4G voice and data);
- (b) if so, the details of surveys conducted to identify such areas;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to expand network coverage, install mobile towers and strengthen telecommunication infrastructure; and
- (d) the timeline set for these efforts?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) The Government, based on the inputs from Telecom Service Providers, assesses mobile coverage in rural and remote areas of the country. Villages found uncovered are surveyed to validate their mobile coverage status. Thereafter, uncovered villages are taken up for coverage under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded 4G mobile connectivity schemes. As of January 2026, out of 1,05,531 villages in the State of Uttar Pradesh (as per data of Registrar General of India), 1,05,495 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

(c) & (d) Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Government, with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), has approved various schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in the uncovered rural and remote areas of the country. As of February 2026, 4G mobile services have been provided at 32,455 villages/locations, across the country including 352 villages/ locations of the State of Uttar Pradesh through the various mobile projects funded by Digital Bharat Nidhi.

Further, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs)/ Villages with broadband in the country including Uttar Pradesh. As of February 2026, 2,17,805 GPs have been made Service Ready in the country, including 47,553 GPs in Uttar Pradesh, for providing high speed internet services under the BharatNet project.

The Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis.

\*\*\*\*\*