

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4330
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND APRIL, 2026**

STRENGTHENING MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS

4330 SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers established during the last five years to improve telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas, State-wise;
- (b) the measures undertaken to enhance mobile and broadband connectivity in rural areas, particularly in backward and aspirational districts of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the steps taken to strengthen mobile connectivity and network resilience in disaster-prone and vulnerable regions to ensure uninterrupted communication during emergencies; and
- (d) the scheme-wise and year-wise details of funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilised for expansion and upgradation of rural mobile connectivity infrastructure during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The State-wise details of the number of mobile towers established during the last five years are attached as **Annexure-I**.
- (b) Several projects have been taken up with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) to enhance mobile and broadband connectivity in rural areas, particularly in backward and aspirational districts of Andhra Pradesh. The status of major projects is summarized below.

S.N	Name of Project	No. of villages targeted for 4G coverage in Andhra Pradesh	No. of villages (out of villages mentioned at column 3) covered with 4G network as on 28.02.2026 in Andhra Pradesh
1	2	3	4
(i)	7287 Aspirational Project	1019	913
(ii)	4G Saturation Project	2596	2289
	Total	3615	3202

As part of BharatNet project, Optical fiber connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) is planned in the state of Andhra Pradesh under Bharat Net Phase-I and Phase-II to enable the villagers to utilize the high speed broadband/internet connectivity and status is as furnished below:

BharatNet	Planned	Service Ready
Phase-I	1,681	1,681
Phase-II	11,806	11,274
Total	13,487	12,955

(c) As a step towards strengthening the uninterrupted telecommunication services, a Standard Operating Procedure for telecommunication services during disasters has been issued by the Department. As per the SOP, License Service Area (LSA) offices of DoT conduct State Telecom Disaster Coordination Committee (STDCC) meetings with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), State Government authorities and NDRF to assess preparedness and coordinate necessary actions. Uninterrupted communication during emergencies is supported through Priority Call Routing (PCR), Intra-Circle Roaming (ICR) and rapid restoration measures such as deployment of Cell on Wheels (COWs) BTS, emergency Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) repair teams and activation of disaster control rooms.

(d) Fund of ₹12,122.73 crore have been disbursed during last five financial years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under various mobile projects of Digital Bharat Nidhi to provide telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country. The scheme-wise and year-wise details is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of the number of mobile towers established during the last five years are mentioned below:

State/UT	As on 28.02.2026	As on 31.03.2025	As on 31.03.2024	As on 31.03.2023	As on 31.03.2022	As on 31.03.2021
Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	496	442	401	357	329	260
Andhra Pradesh	30523	28825	27960	26401	24880	23436
Arunachal Pradesh	2582	2226	2023	1676	1401	1191
Assam	19697	19197	18793	17803	16502	14443
Bihar	46641	45579	44497	41712	38509	33134
Chandigarh (UT)	1212	1224	1232	1197	1177	1143
Chattisgarh	18500	17516	16129	15430	14572	12898
Delhi	25879	25270	24790	23923	22314	19639
Goa	1783	1741	1715	1684	1573	1514
Gujarat	51668	49244	46638	44317	42530	39758
Haryana	27208	26573	25716	24521	22707	20545
Himachal Pradesh	10131	9683	9289	8957	8331	7714
Jammu & Kashmir	12293	11738	11559	10977	10218	9561
Jharkhand	23607	22959	22349	21237	19899	16747
Karnataka	51534	49976	49643	47818	44970	42278
Kerala	24909	23890	22140	20863	19966	18836
Laddakh	851	657	609	564	471	389
Lakshadweep (UT)	57	41	37	34	33	32
Madhya Pradesh	45250	43470	40804	38667	37285	35169
Maharashtra	90351	86170	83233	79053	75420	67669
Manipur	2772	2676	2656	2635	2453	2222
Meghalaya	2673	2522	2465	2324	2152	1784
Mizoram	1384	1363	1340	1288	1138	1008
Nagaland	2004	1747	1697	1609	1506	1377
Odisha	32040	30083	28186	25595	23506	21082
Puducherry (UT)	832	816	800	749	716	672
Punjab	24945	24520	24200	23370	22061	21006
Rajasthan	45991	44529	43768	40481	38038	35166
Sikkim	792	757	760	751	704	635
Tamilnadu	51082	50164	49398	47071	45516	43660
Telangana	31514	30796	30122	28655	27272	25097
Tripura	2783	2687	2663	2577	2438	2217
UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	578	525	488	458	433	410
Uttar Pradesh	104521	101218	97590	91383	84542	74284
Uttarakhand	10833	10487	9880	9387	8847	7930
West Bengal	53902	52969	51201	48543	45631	40908
Grand Total	853818	824280	796771	754067	710040	645814

Annexure-II

Scheme-wise and Year-wise details of fund disbursed under various Mobile Projects of Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) during last five financial years (2020-21 to 2024-25)

Sl. No	Name of Schemes	(Amount in ₹crore)					Total
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Provision of Mobile Services in 354 Uncovered villages of Border States	0.52	36.07	127.00	29.63	33.21	226.43
2	4G Mobile Services Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.53	6.53
3	4G Saturation Mobile Project	0.00	0.00	938.48	3,542.27	3,253.34	7,734.09
4	Provision of Mobile Services in 502 Uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts	0.00	4.86	37.35	38.59	44.90	125.70
5	Provision of Mobile Services in 7287 Uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts	0.00	0.00	8.34	326.49	747.71	1082.54
6	Border Out Post / Border Intelligence Post (BOP-BIP) Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.30	5.30
7	Provision of Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (LWE Phase-I) (including extension of O&M and Upgradation of sites from 2G to 4G)	305.03	400.39	422.10	42.07	0.00	1169.60
8	Provision of Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (LWE Phase-II)	0.00	0.00	125.15	245.33	210.91	581.40
9	Provision of Mobile Services in Andaman Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.60	3.32	33.78	37.70
10	Provision of Mobile Services in uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and Two District of Assam	0.00	0.00	36.03	148.06	116.06	300.14
11	Mobile Services in Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	146.78	40.18	46.49	233.45
12	Provision of Mobile Services in uncovered villages of Assam, Sikkim and other areas of NER (BHL & BAL)	280.78	26.00	6.87	173.00	123.23	609.87
13	Installation of Ten 2G EDGE BTS in Lakshadweep	9.21	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.99
	Grand Total	595.53	468.11	1,848.70	4,588.93	4,621.47	12,122.73
