

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026**

TELECOM CONNECTIVITY IN WEST BENGAL

1289 DR. MENAKA GURUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in West Bengal, particularly in border and Sundarbans areas, that still lack reliable 4G/5G connectivity;
- (b) the funds allocated and utilised for improving telecom infrastructure in the State during the last three years; and
- (c) the timeline for achieving universal digital connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As of June 2026, out of 40,971 villages in West Bengal (as per data of Registrar General of India), 40,953 villages have 4G mobile connectivity and 31,538 villages have 5G connectivity including the border and Sundarbans areas.

Mobile coverage for any uncovered inhabited villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on the techno-commercial viability. Government has approved various schemes with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in the uncovered rural and remote areas of the country. Further, BharatNet project has been approved to provide high-speed fiber broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs), and villages on demand basis. As of June 2026, under DBN funded Mobile schemes, 122 villages/locations had been covered with 4G Mobile connectivity and 2,677 GPs had been connected under BharatNet, in West Bengal.

During the last three financial years, i.e., FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26, an amount of ₹489.62 crore has been disbursed under various Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) schemes for providing telecom connectivity in West Bengal.
