

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1293
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026**

NEXT-GENERATION TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

1293 SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any new initiatives in 2026 to expand high-speed digital connectivity through next-generation telecom infrastructure;
- (b) whether Government is taking measures to improve mobile network coverage and broadband access in rural and remote areas; and
- (c) the details of progress achieved, investment made, expected benefits for citizens, businesses and the Digital India mission?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b) Department of Telecommunications provides license/authorization to the Telecom Services Providers to setup and expand high-speed digital connectivity through next-generation telecom infrastructure. Further, the Government has initiated following key projects to expand high-speed digital connectivity and strengthen next-generation telecom infrastructure in the rural and remote areas.
- (i) Broadband and mobile connectivity in the rural and remote areas are being expanded through the BharatNet Programme, the 4G Saturation Project and submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) projects for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands, funded under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN).
 - (ii) To facilitate faster deployment of telecom infrastructure, the Government has also notified the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 and operationalized the Telecom eServices Portal. At present, all 36 States/UTs are live on the Centralized RoW Portal, marking the nationwide adoption of a uniform digital platform for processing of Right of Way (RoW) applications.
 - (iii) As on 30th June 2026, 80,472 BharatNet Points of Presence (PoPs) at Gram Panchayats are operational and 24,812 mobile towers have been commissioned under Government-funded 4G Saturation Project and other mobile connectivity projects.
- (c) The various initiatives under Digital India Mission and its impact can be accessed online at <https://www.digitalindia.gov.in/>.
