

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2106
ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2026**

INTERNET AND MOBILE NETWORKS IN REMOTE AREAS

2106 SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of growth in internet and mobile network penetration in the North East Regions of the country during the last five years;
- (b) the details of growth in internet and mobile network penetration in the LWE affected districts in the last five years; and
- (c) the details of increase in broadband connectivity in border areas and tribal areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Internet and mobile connectivity in the country including North East Regions, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, border and tribal areas has improved significantly in the last 5 years.

The number of villages in the country with mobile connectivity (2G/3G/4G) have increased from 6,05,230 in March 2022 to 6,36,013 in June 2026. Similarly, the number of villages with mobile internet connectivity (3G/4G) have increased from 6,00,384 in March 2022 to 6,33,160 in June 2026.

In North East Region, the number of villages with mobile connectivity (2G/3G/4G) have increased from 36,608 in March 2022 to 44,280 in June 2026 and number of villages with mobile internet connectivity (3G/4G) have increased from 35,817 in March 2022 to 43,697 in June 2026.

Out of 17,611 border villages in the country, 17,094 villages are covered with 4G connectivity as on April 2026.

Further, under the Government-funded 4G Saturation Project and other mobile connectivity projects, as on 30.06.2026, 24,812 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country, including in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, North Eastern Region, border and tribal areas.

BharatNet program has been approved for provision of broadband connectivity in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) for upgradation of the existing network created under Phase-I and Phase-II of BharatNet and to create incremental network for new GPs, and to connect the non-GP villages on demand basis, operation and maintenance and provision of 1.5 crore fibre internet connections. During June 2026, 80,472 GPs are operational in the country under BharatNet including border and tribal areas.
