

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 508
ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2026**

STATUS OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

508 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of BharatNet project in connecting all Gram Panchayats across the country with high-speed broadband;
- (b) the percentage of remote and border villages currently covered under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) initiatives;
- (c) whether Government is financially supporting domestic startups to develop indigenous 6G telecommunication technologies;
- (d) the steps taken to prevent rising incidents of cyber fraud and spam through the Sanchar Saathi portal; and
- (e) the measures implemented to modernize postal infrastructure in rural areas?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Government of India has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023 for upgradation of all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in ring topology. Out of 2,65,014 GPs planned throughout the country, 2,14,912 GPs had been connected under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II and as of June 2026, 13,494 GPs have been upgraded under ABP for providing high speed internet services.
- (b) The Government supports 4G coverage in villages uncovered by Telecom Service Providers. As of June 2026, 24,784 towers have been made on air covering 35,022 villages/locations across the country, including remote and border villages.
- (c) The Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme was launched by the Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund - USOF) under the Ministry of Communications on 1st October, 2022. The Scheme provides funding support for research and development (R&D) in communication technologies and promotes collaboration among academia, start-ups, research institutions and industry to strengthen the telecom ecosystem in the country. As on date, start-ups are associated as collaborators with academia in 26 TTDF-supported projects related to 6G technologies amounting to Rs.57 crores.

(d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has developed Sanchar Saathi, a citizen centric initiative, with the objective to prevent misuse of telecommunications resources in digital frauds. It is available as web portal (www.sancharsaathi.gov.in) and mobile App. Key features of Sanchar Saathi, inter-alia, includes facilitating citizens to report suspected fraud communications, to know mobile connections in their name & report connections which are not required or not taken by them, to report lost/ stolen mobile handsets, to check genuineness of mobile handset.

(e) Department of Posts (DoP) has undertaken various initiatives for modernization of Post Offices across the country. All Post Offices in the Region have been brought on Advanced Postal Technology (APT) platform, rolled out under Information Technology (IT) 2.0 Project, for end-to-end computerization and network connectivity. Core Banking Solution (CBS) has been implemented in all post offices to provide anywhere banking services to customers. Digital services such as Net Banking, Automated teller machine (ATM), India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), e-Money Orders, Track & Trace, mobile-based services, etc. have been introduced across all post offices. Parcel and logistics services have also been strengthened to support e-commerce activities.
