

PRESS RELEASE



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT PARLIAMENT HOUSE NEW DELHI

THE THIRTY-SECOND REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2025-26) ON 'REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SCHEMES/PROJECTS UNDER DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI (DBN) IMPLEMENTED BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR' RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS)

6th August, 2026

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2025-26) presented to Lok Sabha today, the 6th August, 2026, the Thirty-second Report of the Committee on 'Review of the performance of schemes/projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) implemented by Public and Private Sector' relating to the Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications). Some of the important Observations/Recommendations are as under:-

S.No	Observations/Recommendations
1.	<u>Overview of Bharat Net Programme</u> The Committee have found that while substantial infrastructure has been created, the number of operational GPs has remained below the envisaged universal coverage and the pace of implementation is uneven across States and models. The Committee have therefore, called upon the Department to undertake a comprehensive, model-wise and State-wise performance audit of BharatNet scheme. (Recommendation No. 3)
2.	<u>Utilisation of BharatNet</u> The Committee have recommended that the Department adopt a focused strategy to enhance utilization of BharatNet with greater emphasis on increasing FTTH connections and ensuring saturation of connectivity in the nook and corner of the country and the DBN funds may be utilized in a targeted and outcome-oriented manner. (Recommendation No. 4)
3.	<u>Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)</u> The Committee have emphasized that the Department ensure expeditious finalization of all pending packages and State led strategies, strengthen

	coordination between BSNL, States and Implementing Agencies and put in place milestone-based monitoring mechanism for each package, so that the entire Amended BharatNet Program is implemented in a time-bound manner without further delays, ensuring completion of connectivity to all GPs and targeted villages of the country (Recommendation No. 5)
4.	<u>Expediting Implementation and Ensuring Timely Completion of Mobile Connectivity Projects</u> The Committee have recommended the Department to strengthen scheme-wise monitoring and ensure strict adherence to timelines and priority may be given to critical projects such as the 4G Saturation Scheme and BOP/BIP scheme. (Recommendation No. 7)
5.	<u>Strengthening Technology Deployment Strategy and Ensuring Network Reliability and Service Quality under BharatNet</u> The Committee have recommended the Department to establish clear and standardized guidelines for technology selection and deployment, ensure timely approvals for alternate technologies in difficult areas, put in place a robust mechanism to monitor network reliability, delivery of minimum assured speeds etc., so that the intended benefits of IP-MPLS architecture and multi technology approach are fully realized across all Gram Panchayats and connected villages. (Recommendation No. 10)
6.	<u>Strengthening Third-party Audit Mechanisms, Private Sector Participation and Resolution of Field-level Challenges</u> The Committee have recommended the Department to further strengthen the TPA framework by ensuring time-bound compliance of audit observations by TSPs, enhance support mechanisms for BNUs to sustain last-mile connectivity and take up coordinated efforts with State Governments and security agencies to resolve pending field-level issues, for efficient infrastructure deployment and high-quality telecom services in rural and remote areas. The Committee have also urged the Department to take comprehensive and stringent action on audit findings such as data outages, coverage gaps, weak signal and infrastructure duplication. (Recommendation No. 12)
7.	<u>Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) vis-à-vis Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) and Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)</u> The Committee have recommended that the Department may strengthen pre-project appraisal and realistic costing, enforce strict adherence to timelines and contractual obligations, explore performance linked incentives and disincentives for PSUs and establish a unified monitoring framework to track efficient progress/completion of DBN and BharatNet projects. (Recommendation No. 16)