

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2725
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024**

GATISHAKTI SANCHAR INITIATIVE

2725 SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made in deploying advanced technologies and infrastructure to achieve the goals set forth in the GatiShakti Sanchar initiative;
- (b) the details of the outcomes of 5G services including faster rollout of services ,fiberisation of towers and broadband connectivity to citizens/institutions with a particular focus on identified districts for West Bengal and the current status of their progress; and
- (c) the details of the additional measures being taken to enhance digital connectivity in West Bengal?

ANSWER

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

(a) The GatiShakti Sanchar Portal (Centralized Portal for Right of Way Permissions) was launched on 14th May 2022, to bring Ease of Doing Business for the applicants for quick RoW (Right of Way) permissions for laying OFC (optical fiber cable) and erecting telecom towers. The portal has onboarded/integrated all 36 States/UTs and four central ministries.

(b) In the state of West Bengal, for broadband connectivity to citizens/institutions, there are 28,992 5G BTS (base transceiver station), 1,21,393 4G BTS and 7,232 3G BTS. Further in West Bengal, 25,442 villages are covered with 3G and 40,920 villages with 4G.

A total of 76,161 BTSs are fiberized in West Bengal out of which 20,468 BTSs are 5G.

(c) The Government of India launched the National Broadband Mission on the 17th of December 2019 with a vision to enable fast-track growth of digital communications infrastructure to provide affordable and universal broadband access for all. The Mission aims to facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services for growth and development throughout the country (especially in rural and remote areas).

The following actions were undertaken to enhance digital connectivity across the country and in the State of West Bengal.

DoT has also come out with ITRoW (Indian Telegraph Right of Way) rules 2016, which were amended in Aug 2022 for the 5G roll-out. These rules provide for the standardization of rates for overground and underground telecom infrastructure, rates for street furniture for utilization for 5G small cells, and charges applicable for compensation and restoration. DoT has followed up with all states/UTs for alignment of their RoW policies with that of Central Right of Way rules and for clearance of pending Right of Way applications. Further, the Telecommunication Act passed in 2023 will provide legal backing to the RoW rules to be issued as per this act.

BharatNet: Also, under BharatNet, out of 2,69,215 Gram Panchayats under BharatNet scope, 2,17,696 are service-ready as of 29th July 2024. In West Bengal state, out of 3,613 Gram Panchayats under BharatNet scope, 2,958 are service-ready as of 29th July 2024.

The above steps of the National Broadband Mission, DoT will enhance digital connectivity across the country and in the State of West Bengal.
