

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1403
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

IMPROVEMENT OF MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN WEST BENGAL

1403. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps taken to improve mobile and internet connectivity in remote and rural areas of Jalpaiguri district, particularly under the BharatNet project and the timeline for completing these initiatives;
- (b) whether there are plans to establish more digital and telecom infrastructure in North Bengal particularly in Jalpaiguri to support economic activities and enhance connectivity for residents, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of villages in Jalpaiguri currently lacking reliable mobile network coverage, and the measures being taken to address this gap?

ANSWER

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

- (a) To improve mobile and internet connectivity in remote and rural areas of West Bengal including Jalpaiguri district, Government has taken up 'BharatNet' and 'Saturation of 4G Mobile Services' projects with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)]. As of date, all 80 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Jalpaiguri has been made service ready under BharatNet Project, and all villages of Jalpaiguri have 4G mobile coverage.
- (b) The Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) covering all GPs in the country on ring network, up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, and connectivity to remaining non-GP villages (about 3.8 lakh) on demand basis.
- (c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.
