

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1428  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**TELECOM CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS**

**1428. DR. BHOLA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to improve telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas, particularly through State-owned enterprises like BSNL and MTNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the projects undertaken and progress made; and
- (c) whether the Government has set specific timelines for the nationwide rollout of 5G services to ensure affordable access for all; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) To improve the telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas, Government is implementing various projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF). Such projects awarded to BSNL include 4G Saturation, Border Out Posts (BOP)/ Border Intelligence Posts (BIP), Left Wing Extremism(Phase-I) upgradation and Augmentation of telecom infrastructure in Lakshadweep Island.

(c) & (d) The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have expanded 5G services beyond the minimum rollout obligations. 5G Services have been rolled out in almost all districts of the country.

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