

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 369
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI

369 DR. AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government subscribes to the view that the Digital Bharat Nidhi can be used for funding Research and Development (R&D) and pilot projects instead of just supporting the establishment of telecom services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) A percentage of the Digital Bharat Nidhi is utilized to promote innovation, research & development, promotion and commercialization of indigenous technology development, standards, new technology etc.

132 number of proposals with a funding of Rs 552 Cr., from companies, start-ups, R&D and academic institutions focused on R&D in telecom products and technologies have been approved.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) & (b) above.
