

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025**

MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN LADAKH

4276. SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:

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 the UT of Ladakh and the timeline for completing these initiatives;
- (b) whether the Government has prepared any index regarding the availability and quality of 4G and 5G connectivity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof in respect of UT of Ladakh;
- (d) whether there are plans to establish more digital and telecom infrastructure in the UT of Ladakh, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of Gram Panchayats/villages in the UT of Ladakh 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 (e) Out of 243 villages in Ladakh (as per data of Registrar General of India), 234 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country, including Ladakh. As on February 2025, 136 towers have been commissioned in Ladakh under DBN funded mobile schemes, providing 4G mobile coverage to 169 villages.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis.

To ensure the Quality of Service (QoS) for basic, mobile and broadband services, TRAI has laid down “the Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wireline and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline and Wireless) Service Regulations, 2024”. These regulations have prescribed QoS parameters and benchmarks for network related and customer service-related parameters. The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are required to ensure that the QoS parameters are within the benchmarks laid down by TRAI.
