

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5139
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025**

BHARATNET PROJECT IN ODISHA

5139. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made during the last three years and the current financial year in expanding 4G/5G mobile networks and BharatNet fiber connectivity in rural Odisha, particularly Kandhamal District;
- (b) the future plans of the Government to enhance telecom infrastructure including the number of new towers and fiber-optic networks proposed under Digital India in the current financial year; and
- (c) whether the Government has any incentives or special schemes to encourage telecom companies to expand network coverage in tribal and remote areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The progress made during the last three years and the current financial year in expanding 4G/5G mobile networks and BharatNet fiber connectivity in Odisha, and Kandhamal District is as under:

Item Name	As on	Odisha	Kandhamal district
Number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of 4G/5G	31.03.2021	47,468	271
	31.03.2022	52,082	359
	31.03.2023	57,935	409
	31.03.2024	69,920	660
	28.02.2025	74,283	983
Number of Service Ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet Project	31.03.2021	5,818	151
	31.03.2022	6,672	153
	31.03.2023	6,782	170
	31.03.2024	6,785	171
	28.02.2025	6,785	171

- (b) & (c) Government has taken up 'BharatNet' and various mobile projects with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) for expansion of telecom network coverage in uncovered remote and rural areas, including tribal areas of the country. As of Feb-2025; 2,14,323 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project and 17,341 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) to cover 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 on demand basis.
