GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5194
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN ALL BLOCKS

5194.   DR. RICKY ANDREW J SYNGKON:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the details on the Ministry's current and planned initiatives to deliver reliable and high speed internet connectivity across all blocks of the country with a focus on rural and underserved regions along with the projected timeline for completing this rollout;

(b)   the planned phases for this connectivity project and the timeline for each phase, especially concerning rural and remote blocks;

(c)   the projected budget for implementing this nationwide connectivity initiative; and

(d)   the measures likely to be adopted by the Ministry to ensure efficient use of funds, particularly in reaching underserved regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi for expansion of internet based telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country including 4G saturation project which aim to provide coverage in each village of the country. In addition, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages on demand basis. As of February 2025, 2,14,323 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country.

As of December 2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,25,853 villages are covered with mobile connectivity including 6,18,968 villages having 4G mobile coverage.

(c) & (d)   Rs. 2,34,649 crores have been projected under these initiatives. Following measures have been taken to ensure efficient use of funds and quality of work:

(i)   Setting up of Central Network Operating Centre (C-NOC).
(ii)   Setting up of Project Monitoring Unit.
(iii)   Videography/ photography of trenching, fibre laying, splicing etc.
(iv)   GIS mapping of network.
(v)   Quality testing of material being deployed.
(vi)   Appointment of independent engineers for inspection, validation, bill processing, etc.

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