

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 642
ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025**

INITIATIVES IN TELECOM SECTOR

†642. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the BharatNet project at a fast pace to increase digital connectivity in the rural and remote areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether priority is being accorded for expansion of 5G services especially to the developing sectors in the States and the districts, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any new initiative has been taken to promote banking, insurance and e-commerce services in rural areas by the Postal Department, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has made any technical improvements to make the spectrum allocation process transparent, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has launched any scheme to promote domestic manufacturing and self-reliance in the Telecom Sector and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, so far 2,14,325 GPs have been made service ready.
- (b) To enable roll out of 5G services, access spectrum in various spectrum bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) including 700 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands has been assigned to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) through spectrum auctions conducted in the year 2022 and 2024. The successful bidders, who acquire spectrum through auctions, are permitted to deploy any IMT technology, including 5G.
- (c) The Postal Department has undertaken new initiatives such as the digitization of Post Office Savings Bank services, the transition of Postal Life Insurance to a paperless and online system, the establishment of Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras and collaboration with e-commerce entities in rural and urban areas to promote banking, insurance, and e-commerce in rural regions.
- (d) The spectrum auction process is transparent and non-discriminatory, beginning with a publicly shared Notice Inviting Application (NIA) detailing rules, timelines, and eligibility. The auction itself is conducted online through a secure, Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) audited Electronic Auction System.

(e) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has undertaken multiple initiatives to promote innovation and domestic manufacturing in the communications sector. Under the 'Digital Communications Innovation Square (DCIS)' scheme, DoT has supported 126 projects led by start-ups and MSMEs, with a total budget outlay of ₹108 crore, to foster the development of advanced technologies, including indigenous 5G.

Additionally, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for telecom and networking products, notified on 24.02.2021 and effective from April'21, aims to boost domestic manufacturing with an outlay of ₹12,195 crore. A total of 42 companies—28 MSMEs and 14 non-MSMEs—have been approved as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme. As of 31st May 2025, PLI beneficiary companies have collectively invested INR 4,305 crores, generating sales worth INR 85,391 crores which includes exports of INR 16,414 Cr. This investment has also resulted in employment for 28,067 individuals.
