

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1718
ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025**

MOBILE NETWORK COVERAGE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

1718. DR. AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile network coverage in rural and remote areas depends on techno-commercial viability assessments by Telecom Service Providers;
- (b) if so, whether this approach leaves economically unviable but strategically important villages without connectivity;
- (c) the details of the mechanisms in place to ensure that mobile coverage is provided to all inhabited villages regardless of commercial viability;
- (d) whether the Government considers universal mobile connectivity as a basic service that should be guaranteed independent of commercial considerations and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any alternative funding or subsidy mechanisms are available for connecting villages deemed commercially unviable by private telecom operators and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Mobile services in an area are provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. The Government has been undertaking various schemes through Digital Bharat Nidhi for 4G Mobile coverage to inhabited uncovered villages with details as below:

S.No.	Scheme
1	4G Saturation
2	7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts
3	Left Wing Extremism Phase-II
4	Left Wing Extremism Phase-I Upgradation
5	Uncovered Villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam
6	Uncovered Villages of Meghalaya and National Highway (NH)
7	502 Uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts
8	354 Uncovered Village
9	Uncovered villages of Lakshadweep Islands
10	Uncovered villages and NH of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
