

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2026**

NETWORK COVERAGE IN RURAL AREAS

†4370. SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to identify rural areas with no network coverage;
- (b) if so, whether the Panchayats are included in the said survey;
- (c) the timeline by which mobile towers and internet facilities are likely to be provided in the said rural areas to ensure digital access to education, health, banking, emergency services and Government schemes;
- (d) whether any time-bound plan and budgetary provision have been made for the said purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government, based on the inputs from Telecom Service Providers, assesses mobile coverage in rural and remote areas including village Panchayats. Villages found uncovered are surveyed to validate their mobile coverage status. Thereafter, uncovered villages are taken up for coverage under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded 4G mobile connectivity schemes. As of January 2026, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (as per data of Registrar General of India), 6,35,146 villages are covered with mobile connectivity.

Mobile coverage for inhabited uncovered villages is provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on their techno-commercial viability. Government, with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), has approved various schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in the uncovered rural and remote areas of the country. As on 28.02.2026, 4G mobile services have been provided at 32,455 villages/locations, across the country through the various mobile projects funded by Digital Bharat Nidhi.

(d) & (e) The Government has made budgetary provisions under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) to support universal service through promoting access to and delivery of telecommunication services in underserved rural, remote and urban areas. During the Financial Year 2025–26, an amount of ₹9,650 crore has been allotted under DBN for this purpose.
