

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 685
ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2026**

UTILISATION OF BUDGET

685. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the low utilization of budget allocations during FY 2024-25, with only 6% of funds allocated to the BSNL/MTNL Revival Plan, 23% for Bharat Net and 8% for the Connectivity for Indian Railways (CIOR) scheme spent;
- (b) the details of project deadlines and measurable output milestones introduced following repeated Standing Committee observations regarding underutilization; and
- (c) whether the Department has operationalised any risk-based or performance-linked budget monitoring mechanism since the said observations and if so, the details of these mechanisms?

ANSWER

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

- (a) In FY 2024-25, the utilization of funds against Revised Estimates (RE) was 99.87% in BSNL/MTNL Revival Plan, 61.46% in Bharat Net and 72.06% in Prevention of Spoofed Incoming International Calls System (CIOR).

The reasons for 61.46% utilization of funds in FY 2024-25 in respect of Bharat Net is due to delay in finalization of bids for implementation of Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) by BSNL, which is Project Management Agency for ABP.

- (b) BharatNet programme has been approved for provision for broadband connectivity in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) to upgrade the existing network created under Phases I and II of BharatNet and to create incremental network for connectivity to the remaining GPs, and to the remaining non-GP villages on an on-demand basis with minimum demand for five home fibre internet connections, operation and maintenance for 10 years and provision of 1.5 crore home fibre internet connections. During June 2026, BharatNet Point of Presence (PoPs) at 80,472 GPs are operational.

- (c) The Department is utilising online digital platforms, viz., Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and eLekha for monitoring expenditure and fund utilisation. The physical and financial progress in respect of Projects/Schemes is regularly monitored at highest level to ensure optimal utilization of funds.
