

Telecom Services in Hilly Areas

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The details of subscribers in the country for various Telecom Service Providers including BSNL as collected and published by TRAI from time to time are available on its website. Further, in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, BSNL has placed purchase order for indigenously developed 4G sites for pan India deployment. Supply of 4G equipment has started from September 2023 and as on 30.06.2025, total 95,537 4G sites have been installed and 90,035 sites are ON-Air. The equipment is 5G upgradable.

As a result of the revival packages given to BSNL, BSNL has started earning operating profits from F.Y. 2020-21 and BSNL has earned net profit of Rs. 262 Crore and 280 Crore in Quarter 3 & 4 of Financial Year 2024-25 respectively.

To improve telecom infrastructure in the hilly areas across the country, Government is implementing various projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) such as (i) 4G Saturation project to provide 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country, (ii) Border Out Posts (BoP)/Border Intelligence Posts (BIP) project for the provision of 4G based mobile services at BoP/BIP's, (iii) Schemes for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, (iv) Scheme for providing mobile services in Aspirational Districts, (v) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the NER to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and along the National Highways, and (vi) BharatNet project which is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages on demand in the country.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today.

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