



Last-mile Digital Connectivity

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Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today said that for expanding high-speed broadband and mobile connectivity in rural, border, and aspirational districts, a number of steps & flagship projects have been taken up by the Government. As of Dec-2025; 2,14,904 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready with broadband connectivity under BharatNet project and 23,694 mobile towers have been commissioned under 4G Saturation Project and other Mobile projects in the country.

Improved digital connectivity has significantly contributed to better access to education, healthcare, and government services, particularly by bridging geographical gaps in remote and underserved areas. Digital transformation has fundamentally altered how citizens interact with essential services.

To ensure quality of telecom services, Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and other global standards/practices have been adopted and performance of telecom service providers against these benchmarks is regularly monitored.

Further, to make telecom services affordable across regions, the Government has taken many steps including proactive policies, implementing the Telecommunications Act 2023 for regulatory ease, creation of Digital Bharat Nidhi (formerly Universal Service Obligation Fund) for providing financial support for establishing, operating, and maintaining telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas etc.

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