

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1794
ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025**

MOBILE AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN DISASTER PRONE AREAS

1794. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study/survey regarding disaster-prone areas during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the list of schemes, initiatives and workings undertaken for the last five years;
- (c) the details of the total amount of funds allocated, released and utilised for establishment of mobile/broadband connectivity during the last five years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any specific training activities in rural areas within disaster prone zones during the last five years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has considered using satellite-based connectivity such as Starlink for boosting rural connectivity and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Separate study exclusively for disaster-prone areas has not been conducted by the Ministry of Communications in the last five years. However, telecom infrastructure and service delivery during disaster are continuously monitored through field units, reports from TSPs, and coordination with State authorities. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place for telecom preparedness and response during disasters.
- (c) An amount of Rs. 34,967.14 crore has been allocated, released and utilised for the establishment of mobile and broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of the country during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) under various Digital Bharat Nidhi-DBN schemes. The State-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (d) No separate training exclusively for disaster-prone rural areas has been conducted by Ministry of Communications. However, preparedness is ensured through SOPs, advisories, review meetings, and disaster-response mechanisms by TSPs.
- (e) Under BharatNet project 5,034 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready over Satellite media. Further, under the Amended BharatNet Program, alternate technologies (radio/satellite) including Low Earth Orbit/Medium Earth Orbit (LEO/MEO) satellite communication services, when matured may be considered for deployment based on the requirement and cost effectiveness in cases where the implementation of OFC may not be economical/feasible.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of funds allocated/ released/ utilized under various DBN Schemes during last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) for establishment of Mobile / broadband connectivity		
Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Funds disbursed (Rs. in crores)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	812.54
2	Andhra Pradesh	2,403.98
3	Assam	555.55
4	Bihar	1,007.43
5	Chhattisgarh	2,566.36
6	Gujarat (including Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu)	2,460.36
7	Haryana	275.02
8	Himachal Pradesh	411.79
9	Jammu and Kashmir (including Ladakh)	562.91
10	Jharkhand	1,612.30
11	Karnataka	899.92
12	Kerala	383.63
13	Lakshadweep	932.85
14	Maharashtra (including Goa)	4,867.51
15	Madhya Pradesh	1,886.57
16	NE-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	568.56
17	NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	1,202.31
18	Odisha	2,433.57
19	Puducherry	7.26
20	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	773.59
21	Rajasthan	1,757.82
22	Tamil Nadu	1,128.83
23	Telangana	2,023.88
24	Uttar Pradesh	2,565.79
25	Uttarakhand	395.47
26	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	471.34
27	Total	34,967.14
