

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 56
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

GATISHAKTI SANCHAR

56 Shri Iranna Kadadi:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives, scope, and key focus areas of the Gatishakti Sanchar program;
- (b) details of the progress made in deploying advanced technologies and infrastructure to achieve the goals set forth in the Gatishakti Sanchar initiative;
- (c) details of the outcomes of 5G services, with a particular focus on identified districts in Karnataka and the status of their progress; and
- (d) details of the additional measures being taken to enhance digital connectivity in Karnataka?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d)

- PM The GatiShakti Sanchar portal is a major reform brought in to facilitate faster rollout of telecom infrastructure.
- It is a Centralised Right of Way (RoW) Portal that enables applicants such as Telecom Service Providers/Infrastructure Providers / Internet Service Providers (TSP/IP/ISPs) to apply for RoW approvals.
- Applications can be submitted for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) and erecting Towers to various agencies of State/UT Governments, local bodies and Ministries.
- The objective of GatiShakti Sanchar Portal is to streamline Right of Way (RoW) permission processes for quick deployment of Telecom Infrastructure.
- The portal is integrated with all 36 States /UTs and with relevant central ministries viz. Ministry of Railways (MoR), Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Modern Advanced Business Analytics tools have been used to analyze the RoW applications pendency status and create intuitive dashboards and reports to help speedy disposal of the applications.
- Automated email and SMS alerts are sent to applicants on every stage of application processing.
- The portal offers real-time tracking and analysis of state-wise and district-wise submitted and pending applications for high level monitoring that significantly reduced the average disposal time of applications.

- All States/UTs are now accepting online payment. The standardisation of process has reduced scope of individual discretion for application rejection.
- Deemed approval facility has been enabled by 31 States/UTs to ensure prescribed 60 days approval timeline of applications.
- Standardization of business entity names has brought uniformity for applicant's company names and industry can now see its overall country wide application status.
- Overall, it has facilitated 'Ease of Doing Business' for the industry partners.
- 1,19,154 applications for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) and installation of mobile towers approved from 14.05.2022 (date of launch of GatiShakti Sanchar portal) till 29.01.2024.

Telecom connectivity in India has improved significantly in last 10 years, outlined as follows:

	May 2014	Dec 2023
Number of Base Transceiver stations	6.49 Lakh	28 Lakh
Optical fiber laid	10.62 Lakh Km	39 Lakh Km
Internet users	25.15 Cr	88.12 Cr
Cost of data	Rs. 269/ Gb	Rs. 9.94/ Gb
Median internet speed	1.3 Mbps	75.8 Mbps
Villages connected under BharatNet	58	2.10 Lakh

5G services were launched in India on 1st October 2022. Within a span of 14 months, more than 4.15 Lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) are providing connectivity across 742 districts in the country, including Tripura. More than 13 Cr subscribers have begun to use 5G services. This is the fastest roll-out of 5G anywhere in the world.

To further improve telecom connectivity in the country, Government is implementing various schemes.

- A total of 41,160 mobile towers have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 41,331 Cr to provide 4G connectivity to about 55 thousand villages.
- Scope of BharatNet program has been expanded to connect all inhabited villages with an outlay of 1.88 Lakh Cr.
