

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2725
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2024**

TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

2725 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the actions taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to enhance telecom services in rural areas of Maharashtra as of now;
- (b) whether the Central Government has received any representation from the State Government concerning this issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the actions implemented by the Central Government to tackle this problem, especially in rural regions; and
- (e) the immediate actions implemented by Government to address this issue and ensure high-speed internet access in rural areas of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Existing equipment of 2G, 3G technology at 11,183 locations/ Towers in Maharashtra are planned for replacement with indigenously developed 4G technology by BSNL. Further, the Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 has approved 4G Saturation Scheme to provide 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country and as a part of this scheme, 2,854 villages of Maharashtra are planned for 4G services.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages in the country. To provide high speed internet services in rural areas of Maharashtra, BharatNet connectivity has been extended to 24,575 GPs as on 04.11.2024 and balance GPs/non-GP villages (on demand) are planned under Amended BharatNet Programme.
