

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2024**

IMPROVING TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN HILLY AREAS

1126 # MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is making fresh efforts to improve telecommunication infrastructure in remote and hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether TRAI has identified some districts in Himachal Pradesh where the public is badly affected due to lack of communication facilities, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in the year 1997 by an Act of Parliament to regulate the Telecommunication services. TRAI make recommendations, either suo motu or on a request from the Government as per sections 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act. The Government takes into consideration various recommendations released by TRAI while formulating policies for expansion of communication services in the country. TRAI has released following recommendations to improve telecommunication infrastructure in remote and hilly areas:

- Recommendations dated 12.12.2022 on Improving Telecom Connectivity/ Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh.
- Recommendations dated 24.04.2023 on Improving Telecom Coverage and Backhaul Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Ladakh.
- Recommendation dated 22.09.2023 on Improving Telecom Infrastructure in Northeastern States of India.
- Recommendation dated 29.09.2023 on Improving Backhaul Telecom Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) TRAI vide recommendations dated 12.12.2022 recommended for provisioning of mobile services in identified villages of Lahaul & Spiti, Kullu and Chamba districts and for upgradation of mobile services in identified villages of Chamba, Kullu & Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Government is implementing various schemes / projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in rural, remote and hilly areas of the country including Himachal Pradesh. The 4G Saturation project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in 24,680 uncovered villages in the country, including Himachal Pradesh. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc.
