

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2024**

TELECOM CONNECTIVITY EFFORTS IN TRIBAL AREAS

1129 SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken to improve telecom connectivity in tribal areas under the BharatNet initiative;
- (b) whether work has been initiated in areas such as the Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district and rural areas of Prakasam and Guntur districts in Andhra Pradesh under the project or other similar initiatives; and
- (c) the details on targeted approaches to increase internet and technological literacy and affordability of personal electronic devices and internet packages alongside internet penetration?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the BharatNet scheme, provision has been made to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country including the GPs in tribal areas. So far, 2,14,283 GPs have been made service ready. Infrastructure created under this scheme can be utilized to provide Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections and backhaul to mobile towers in the rural areas, including tribal areas.

Further strengthening of existing BharatNet network and expanding it to provide connectivity to non-GP villages on demand-basis is under the scope of Amended BharatNet Program.

- (b) Under BhartNet program, 83 GPs in Visakhapatnam, 718 GPs in Prakasam, and 276 GPs in Guntur district have been made service ready.
- (c) The Government has approved “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” scheme to usher in digital literacy in rural India, and 6.39 crore beneficiaries were trained under the scheme. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) apart from providing the connection, has put in efforts to generate the demand in rural areas, by creating awareness amongst rural inhabitants.
