

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1609
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2025**

UTILIZATION OF DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI

1609 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount collected under the Universal Service Obligation Funds and Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) over the last five years and the total amount utilized from DBN during the same period;
- (b) whether any delays have been reported in DBN-funded projects and if so, the reasons and corrective steps taken; and
- (c) the details of the grievance redressal mechanism available for stakeholders and telecom service providers regarding DBN fund disbursement?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Rs. 63,224.09 crore was collected under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) and Rs. 30,306.50 crore was utilized/ disbursed from DBN during last five financial years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24).
- (b) DBN Projects in underserved rural and remote areas are undertaken with the support of concerned State/UT Government and in compliance to guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Some projects are mainly delayed due to the pending Revenue land allocation, Forest permission from State/MoEFCC, RoW issues, Security, Access issues etc. The challenges are addressed through regular review meetings, coordination with all stakeholders, State/UT Administration and Forest Department. To fast-track approval of RoW issue, the process has been made online.
- (c) Online Project Monitoring Information System has been created by DBN to resolve grievances of stakeholders and Telecom Service Providers regarding DBN fund disbursement.
