

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 337
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

**337 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any initiatives undertaken for telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any initiative for providing mobile service in uncovered villages of North-Eastern Region and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) To improve telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country, Government has taken up 'BharatNet' project for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country and many other mobile projects for provisioning of mobile services with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)]. As of date, 2,14,323 GPs are service ready in the country. Further, by commissioning of around 16,869 mobile towers, around 22,000 uncovered remote and rural villages / locations have been covered in the country.

(c) & (d) For providing mobile service in uncovered villages of North-Eastern Region and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas, Government has undertaken many targeted projects. In North-Eastern states, under the DBN funded schemes, 2,829 mobile towers have been commissioned covering around 3,500 uncovered villages and 286 National Highway locations. Further, in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas, 3,449 mobile towers have been commissioned covering 3,505 uncovered locations.
