

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 966
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

**POOR CONNECTIVITY OF MOBILE AND INTERNET NETWORKS IN RURAL
PUNJAB**

966 SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of poor connectivity of mobile and internet networks in rural areas of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken and proposals under consideration, if any, to improve connectivity of mobile and internet networks in rural areas of Punjab?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Out of 12,534 villages in Punjab (as per Registrar General of India), around 12,532 villages are having mobile coverage and out of these, 12,494 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity.

Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF) for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural, tribal and remote areas of the country, including Punjab. The 4G Saturation project is for provisioning of 4G mobile connectivity in 24,680 uncovered villages in the country. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis.
