

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4560  
ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**MOBILE AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN KERALA**

**4560. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified tribal, hilly and forest-adjacent areas especially those with tourism potential which are still underserved or unconnected in terms of mobile and internet connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the status of ongoing or proposed initiatives to address these gaps;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the serious communication deficiencies in tribal and tourism zones like Athirappilly, Malakkapara, Vazhachal, Ponginchod, Silent Valley, Gavi and parts of Wayanad and Idukki in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there is any special package or scheme under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), BharatNet or the 4G Saturation Project to provide eco-sensitive, disaster-resilient and inclusive telecom infrastructure in these regions and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) As of June 2025, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (as per data of Registrar General of India), 6,30,582 villages are covered with mobile connectivity and out of these, 6,25,571 villages have 4G mobile connectivity. All the 1,438 villages in Kerala have 4G mobile connectivity, including tourist places such as Athirappilly, Malakkapara, Vazhachal, Ponginchuvadu, Silent Valley, and Gavi.

Mobile coverage for any uncovered inhabited villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on the techno-commercial viability. Government, through funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), is implementing various schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country. As on date, 317 mobile towers have been commissioned in Kerala under various DBN funded schemes, providing mobile connectivity to 502 villages.

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. All the 978 GPs in Kerala have been made service ready under BharatNet project.

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