

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 473
ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025**

EXPANSION OF 5G NETWORK

473. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of 5G network expansion in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, including the number of 5G towers installed and operational as of date;
- (b) the total number of villages and urban areas in these districts where 5G services are available; and
- (c) the specific timeline for the full implementation of 5G services in these districts, particularly in rural and hilly areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As on 30th June 2025, total of 652 number of 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed and made operational by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Similarly, 84 number of 5G BTSs have been installed and are operational in Kalimpong district.

For provisioning of 5G services in the villages, 5G BTSs have been installed in 127 number of villages in Darjeeling district and 22 number of villages in Kalimpong district of West Bengal. Further, 5G BTSs are available in all the Block Head Quarters (BHQs) as well as in the District Head Quarters (DHQs) of these two districts.

TSPs have expanded the 5G services across the country, including in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts and have gone beyond the minimum rollout obligations, as prescribed in the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for spectrum auction. Expansion of mobile services beyond these obligations depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the TSPs.
