

Need to revise the threshold criteria for coverage of a village under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) project to ensure 4G connectivity in rural areas-Laid

SHRIMATI MALVIKA DEVI (KALAHANDI): It has been observed that under the ongoing Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) project, a village is considered covered if more than 60% of the 4G signal survey samples recorded at different locations within the village show a signal strength better than -110 dBm. Typically around 20 samples are taken from key locations such as Anganwadi Centres, Panchayat Offices, markets, shops, community spaces, school areas from both ends of the village. A threshold of -110 dBm, though technically counted as 'covered', does not ensure reliable indoor connectivity. At this level, most households experience call drops, poor voice quality, and frequent failure of incoming calls. Citizens often have to step outside their homes merely to make or receive a call, defeating the very purpose of universal mobile connectivity. Therefore, I humbly request the Government and the Minister of Communications to reconsider the existing threshold of -110 dBm and revise it to -95 dBm or better for declaring a village as covered. This will ensure meaningful, usable 4G connectivity both outdoors and indoors, thereby improving digital inclusion and communication access for rural citizens.