

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1448
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024**

DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI

1448 SHRI S JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government subscribes to the view that the Digital Bharat Nidhi can be used for funding Research and Development (R&D) and pilot projects instead of just supporting the establishment of telecom services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Yes Sir, as per the section 25(b) of The Telecommunications Act, 2023, Digital Bharat Nidhi will be utilized to support research and development of telecommunication services, technologies, and products. The rules on administration of Digital Bharat Nidhi are not yet notified.
