

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024**

TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

1482 SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the strategies being formulated to bridge the digital divide and ensure affordable and accessible telecom services in rural and remote areas;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is leveraging telecom infrastructure to drive digital transformation and enable the growth of other sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and education; and
- (c) the initiatives put in place to promote digital literacy and skills development in underserved communities?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government has undertaken various schemes to provide access to telecom services in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices, thereby bridging the rural-urban digital divide. A developed telecom infrastructure can drive digital transformation and foster the growth of other sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and education. The same is being done through projects like BharetNet, schemes for providing mobile connectivity and commissioning of submarine Optical Fibre Cables.

(c) Skill India Mission (SIM) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) etc . For the purpose of Skill development, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) and Bharatskills Portal have also been launched by MSDE.
