

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 219  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2023**

**PROGRESS OF 5G SERVICES IN TAMIL NADU**

**219 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress of 5G services with a specific focus on the districts of Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) the details of the additional steps being taken to enhance digital connectivity in Tamil Nadu?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) As on 30-06-2022, 5G networks have been rolled out in 702 districts distributed across the country including in 38 districts of Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, 25138 Base stations have been installed for providing 5G services as on 30-06-2022.

(b) In order to enhance the digital connectivity in the country including Tamil Nadu, the Government has taken many initiatives. Some of them are as follows: -

- (i) Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity is being implemented under the State-led model by Tamil Nadu Fibernet Corporation (TANFINET), the State's Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), in all 12,524 Gram Panchayats (GPs) through optical fiber network. So far 3,898 GPs have been made Service Ready under this project. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project can be utilized by Service Providers for provisioning of broadband/internet services through Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fiber, backhaul to mobile towers, etc.
- (ii) Under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23, Department of Expenditure has approved an amount of Rs. 184 Crores for the State of Tamil Nadu in the form of 50-year interest free loan, for capital projects on Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network. This assistance is meant for providing last mile connectivity of BharatNet at end user locations in GPs.
- (iii) The Government has approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country on 27.07.2022. Under this scheme, installation of 282 new 4G sites and 4G upgradation of 36 sites has been planned in Tamil Nadu. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc.
- (iv) Procedure for SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations) clearance for Low Power Base Transceiver Station (BTS)/ small cells i.e Micro, Pico and Femto cells on existing street furniture/infrastructure has been simplified.
- (v) Procedure for application and time-bound permission for usage of street furniture for installation of small cells and telegraph line has been specified in Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
- (vi) GatiShakti Sanchar portal has been launched to facilitate and expedite Right of Way permissions, by providing a single interface between all stake holders including Central and State/UT Government(s), Local bodies, and Service Providers.

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