

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2253
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2025**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN TAMIL NADU

2253 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to implement the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details of the progress made under the NBM in Tamil Nadu, including the number of villages connected, the infrastructure developed, and any challenges faced in the implementation;
- (c) whether Government has allocated sufficient funds for the successful implementation of the NBM in Tamil Nadu, and if so, the total amount sanctioned; and
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure that the rural and remote areas in Tamil Nadu benefit equally from the broadband expansion under this mission?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has taken the following key actions to improve broadband connectivity in rural areas and bridge the digital divide by implementing the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the country, including the state of Tamil Nadu:

- I. Launched the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal on 14th May 2022, thus streamlining Right of Way (RoW) permissions for Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower installation. The Telecommunications Act, 2023, and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 with effect from 1st January 2025, further streamlined RoW processes.

Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural areas and bridging the digital divide with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). Key initiatives include:

- I. The Amended Bharat Net project provides broadband to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages (on demand).
- II. Various schemes for high-speed internet and mobile services (including 4G) in remote areas, such as the North-East, Islands, LWE(Left-Wing Extremism)-affected regions, Aspirational Districts, and border villages.
- III. Submarine optical fiber cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar and Kochi and Lakshadweep for faster internet connectivity.

Under the state-led model in Tamil Nadu, the cost of work awarded is Rs.1544.44 crore (exclusive of taxes), out of which Rs.1093.74 crore has been utilized up to 28th Feb 2025. As of 24th Feb 2025, 10298 GPs out of 12524 have been made service-ready. 53,511 route kilometres of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been laid under the BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu.

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0 starts from 1st April 2025 and builds upon the strengths and experiences gained from the NBM 1.0 and aims to propel India into a new era of digital transformation and global competitiveness
