

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3701
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD APRIL, 2025**

NATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY IN TAMIL NADU

3701 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to implement National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the current status of the NDCP's implementation in Tamil Nadu, including the key targets achieved, such as broadband penetration, infrastructure development, and connectivity in urban and rural areas;
- (c) the total funding allocated and utilized for implementation of the NDCP in Tamil Nadu, and the details of future funding plans; and
- (d) the initiatives taken to ensure that the NDCP's goals of providing high-speed internet, increasing broadband penetration, and fostering innovation are met in Tamil Nadu, particularly in remote and underserved regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP)-2018 was launched by the Government of India in the year 2018 with a vision to fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises through the establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure, accessible and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure throughout India. National Digital Communications Policy- 2018 is not a scheme, but a policy document, which does not has a separate sanctioned head under budget.

Some of the key steps and initiatives taken by the government towards the implementation of the NDCP- 2018 are as below:

- Telecom coverage to uncovered villages, especially in remote and challenging terrains by Digital Bharat Nidhi;
- Enactment of The Telecommunications Act 2023 on 24th December, 2023;
- Rationalization of definition of adjusted gross revenue;
- Allowing spectrum trading/sharing;
- Incentivizing spectrum sharing;
- Ensuring adequate spectrum through open and transparent auction;
- Permission for 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in telecom sector under automatic route subject to safeguards;
- Launch of Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for centralized Right of Way (RoW) approvals;

- To facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 has been notified on 17th September, 2024 and has come into effect on 01st January, 2025;
- Simplification of Standing Advisory Committee for Radio Frequency Allocation (SAFCA) clearance process for installing telecom towers;
- With an aim to achieve Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, 109 compliance burdens removed or reduced;
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to facilitate investment in the manufacturing of telecom equipment and reduce import dependency of the telecom industry;
- Establishment of Public Wi-Fi hotspots;
- Launch of 5G on 1st October, 2022 for improving the network speed and latency, etc.;
- Allocation of ₹ 114.45 crore has been made for Tamil Nadu for the purpose of mobile tower installation under the 4G Saturation Project;
- Allocation of ₹ 1544.44 crore has been made for Tamil Nadu under the state led model of BharatNet scheme.

The implementation of NDCP-2018 over the last six years has improved telecom infrastructure, expanded the coverage and affordability of telecom services throughout India, including Tamil Nadu. The details of development in respect of telecom infrastructure, affordability of broadband, coverage, etc. in India including Tamil Nadu are as below:

- The optical fiber cable network in India has increased from 17.5 lakh kms in March 2018 to 42.13 lakh kms in December 2024 whereas in the state of Tamil Nadu it has increased from 1.07 lakh kms in March 2018 to 3.04 lakh kms in December 2024;
- Base Transceiver Stations in India have increased from 17.3 Lakh in March, 2018 to 29.8 lakh in February 2025, whereas in the state of Tamil Nadu it has increased from 81,788 in March 2018 to 2.02 lakh in February 2025;
- As of December 2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), 6,25,853 villages are covered with mobile connectivity whereas in Tamil Nadu, out of 16,488 villages, 16,424 villages are covered with mobile connectivity;
- The number of broadband subscribers in India has increased from 48 Crore in September, 2018 to 94 Crore in September 2024 whereas in Tamil Nadu, it has increased from 3.6 Crore in September, 2018 to 6.2 Crore in September 2024;
- As of September 2024, 1.64 lakh public Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in India whereas 2,084 public Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in Tamil Nadu;
- The data usage in India has increased from 8.32 GB per month in September, 2018 to 21.10 GB per month in September, 2024;
- The average tariff per GB for wireless data in India has decreased from ₹10.91 in September, 2018 to ₹9.08 in September, 2024.
