

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 494
ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2025**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN KARNATAKA

494 SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to implement the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in Karnataka, if so, the details of the progress made since its launch;
- (b) the total length of optical fibre cables laid under the NBM in Karnataka;
- (c) the number of villages and Gram Panchayats connected through broadband services under the Mission and the challenges faced in implementation in the State;
- (d) the timeline set for achieving 100 percent broadband connectivity in the rural and urban areas; and
- (e) the details of broadband penetration in tribal and remote regions under the NBM?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) 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 Karnataka.

- I. Launched the Centralized Right of Way (RoW) Portal on May 14, 2022, thus facilitating the streamlining of the RoW permissions for the deployment of telecom infrastructure viz. Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower installation.
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- II. Processes to obtain RoW permissions and applicable charges were further made uniform through Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 under 'The Telecommunications Act, 2023'. The rules are effective from January 01, 2025. The rules are further streamlining and expediting the telecom infrastructure deployment in the country.

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

- i. The BharatNet project providing broadband to 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 (2312 km) and Kochi and Lakshadweep (1869 km), enabling faster internet connectivity.

A total of 14,217 route KM of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been laid and 6,084 Gram Panchayats have been made service-ready under the BharatNet Project in Karnataka as of June 30, 2025.
