**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 498**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2025**

**NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION 2.0**

**498 #   DR. KALPANA SAINI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a)     the details of key objectives, targets and implementation strategy of the National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0;

(b)     the key actions, projects undertaken and achievements made so far, to enhance broadband connectivity in rural, tribal and remote areas through NBM 2.0; and

(c)     the details regarding the target set for the year 2025-26 under NBM 2.0, the State-wise progress made and the steps taken to reduce the urban-rural digital divide?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b)     National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0 aims to fast-track the rapid expansion of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital and socio-economic divide, ensuring High-speed Broadband and Meaningful Connectivity for All across the country including rural and remote areas with the following strategy:

i.     Centralized Right of Way (RoW) Portal: The single window platform streamlines the RoW permissions for the deployment of telecom infrastructure viz. Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower installation and plays a critical role in accelerating the rollout of digital infrastructure, thereby supporting the NBM 2.0 objectives.

ii.     The Telecommunications RoW Rules, 2024 under 'The Telecommunications Act, 2023': The rules, effective from January 01, 2025, are further streamlining and expediting the telecom infrastructure deployment in the country. The majority of the States and UTs have issued government orders directing their local bodies and concerned departments to follow the RoW Rules, 2024.

(c)     The details regarding the target set for the year 2025-26 under NBM 2.0 and progress made are provided as below:

| S.No | Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) | Target set for the year 2025-26 | Current Status |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| I | Operational Optical fiber cable (OFC) connectivity to villages - 95% uptime (in lakh) | 1 | **0.48** (Oct-25) |
| II | Broadband Connectivity to anchor institutions-Schools, PHCs, Anganwadi Centre, and Panchayat Offices (in %) | 40 | **49.62** (Oct-25) |
| III | Availability of Fixed broadband download Speeds-National Average as per Ookla's Global Index (in Mbps) | 70 | **60.34** (Oct-25) |
| IV | RoW application average disposal time (in Days) | 45 | **34.50** (Till Nov 2025) |
| V | Mapping of Fiber Cumulative - Govt. PSUs (in %) | 100 | **94%** (Oct-25) |
| VI | Availability of Fiber of Private Telecom Operators through IT systems for decision-making - with limited access as defined by TSPs (in %) | 80 | **67%** (Oct-25) |
| VII | Rural Internet Subscribers per 100 population | 47 | **46.73%** (Jun-25) |
| VIII | Use of sustainable energy in mobile towers - to meet its power requirements (in %) | 10 | **12.38%** (Oct-25) |

Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural & remote 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/broadband 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.

On 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) under Design, Built, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) model, for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance GPs, Operation and Maintenance for 10 years and utilization.

The state-wise details of planned and service ready GPs excluding Block Headquarters (BHQs) of BharatNet is given in **Annexure-I.**

**Annexure referred to in Part (a), (b) and (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 498 for Answer on 04.12.2025**

| S.No. | State | No. of GPs planned (excluding BHQs) | No of GPs service ready (excluding BHQs) | No. of GPs planned in ABP |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Assam | 2665 | 1507 | 1158 |
| 2 | Bihar | 8405 | 8340 | 65 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 11711 | 9695 | 1680 |
| 4 | Haryana | 6256 | 6082 | 174 |
| 5 | Jammu & Kashmir | 4299 | 1101 | 3194 |
| 6 | Karnataka | 6090 | 6084 | 6 |
| 7 | Kerala | 978 | 978 | |
| 8 | Madhya Pradesh | 22858 | 17850 | 5008 |
| 9 | Maharashtra | 27939 | 24575 | 250 |
| 10 | Punjab | 13337 | 12668 | 669 |
| 11 | Rajasthan | 11352 | 8776 | 2576 |
| 12 | Uttar Pradesh (E) | 43072 | 34274 | 8633 |
| 13 | Uttar Pradesh (W) | 16218 | 12472 | 3746 |
| 14 | Uttarakhand | 7937 | 1993 | 5943 |
| 15 | West Bengal | 3340 | 2677 | 663 |
| 16 | Sikkim | 185 | 35 | 12 |
| 17 | Chandigarh | 12 | 12 | |
| 18 | Lakshadweep | 10 | 9 | |
| 19 | Arunachal Pradesh | 1959 | 1124 | 803 |
| 20 | Nagaland | 1007 | 236 | 771 |
| 21 | Manipur | 2936 | 1475 | 1400 |
| 22 | Mizoram | 784 | 540 | 243 |
| 23 | Tripura | 1179 | 740 | 439 |
| 24 | Meghalaya | 1857 | 698 | 1138 |
| 25 | Gujarat | 14324 | 14320 | 4 |
| 26 | Daman & Diu | 18 | 18 | |
| 27 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 20 | 20 | |
| 28 | Puducherry | 110 | 98 | 12 |
| 29 | Andhra Pradesh | 13481 | 12955 | 526 |
| 30 | Telangana | 12865 | 10833 | 132 |
| 31 | Odisha | 6798 | 6785 | 10 |
| 32 | Jharkhand | 4416 | 4390 | 23 |
| 33 | Himachal Pradesh | 3615 | 410 | 3204 |
| 34 | Ladakh | 193 | 193 | |
| 35 | Goa | 191 | 0 | 191 |
| 36 | Tamil Nadu | 12525 | 10808 | |
| 37 | Andaman & Nicobar | 72 | 72 | |
| | **Total** | **265014** | **214843** | **42673** |

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