

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 138  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN TAMIL NADU**

**138 SHRI R. DHARMAR:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of implementation of National Broadband Mission in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, including the number of villages covered and yet to be covered;
- (b) the steps being taken to ensure high-speed broadband connectivity in remote and underserved regions of the State;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for the Mission in the State, so far;
- (d) the challenges faced in rolling out broadband in rural areas and the measures being adopted to overcome them; and
- (e) the timeline by which 100 per cent rural broadband coverage is expected to be achieved in the State?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN  
REGION  
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 138 FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026 REGARDING “NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN TAMIL NADU.”**

(a) to (e) National Broadband Mission (NBM) 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 the rural and remote areas.

The current status of main components of the National Broadband Mission in Tamil Nadu is as follows:

- (i) Operational Optical fibre cable (OFC) connectivity (with 95% uptime) is available in 4,325 villages of Tamil Nadu as on January 2026.
- (ii) Broadband Connectivity to anchor institutions including the Schools, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Anganwadi Centre, and Panchayat Offices is 84.74% as on December 2025 in Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) The National Average including Tamil Nadu, for the fixed broadband download Speeds is 61.55 Mbps including the State of Tamil Nadu (as per Ookla’s global speedtest index as on December 2025).
- (iv) Right of Way (RoW) application average disposal time is 84.9 days for the financial year 2025-26 in Tamil Nadu.
- (v) Rural Internet Subscribers per 100 population is 54.53 as on September 2025 in Tamil Nadu.

The Telecom infrastructure including Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and OFC have been laid in the State by private facility Providers (FPs) and under the Government funded various project/schemes to ensure high-speed broadband/internet connectivity. To address the challenges in rolling out broadband services, particularly in rural, remote, and underserved areas, the Government has undertaken several policy reforms and projects.

The details of policy reforms and Government funded projects are as follows:

- (i) Government brought uniformity in RoW rules through the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 (effective from January 01, 2025) under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Tamil Nadu has also been requested to issue necessary orders to implement the Right of Way Rules, 2024.
- (ii) To streamline the processing of RoW permissions for the deployment of telecom infrastructure viz. OFC laying and telecom tower installation, Tamil Nadu has deployed a RoW Portal linked to the Central RoW portal in accordance with RoW Rules 2024.
- (iii) Under the 4G saturation project 255 4G BTSs have been deployed to provide mobile coverage to 297 villages as on 31.12.2025.
- (iv) Under the State-led model in Tamil Nadu, as on 31.12.2025, 10,869 Gram Panchayats (GPs) excluding Block Headquarters (BHQs) out of 12,525, have been made service-ready under the BharatNet Project. A total of 3,08,907 route kilometres of OFC have been laid by all FPs, including around 55,000 route kilometres OFC under the BharatNet Project. 808 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided through BharatNet in Tamil Nadu.

- (v) The Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) in Tamil Nadu plans to provide FTTH connections to 5,27,506 households. The Program is to be implemented by the State in next 10 years.
- (vi) A total amount of ₹1,883.17 crores has been allocated/disbursed upto 31.12.2025 and utilized, to provide telecom services in Tamil Nadu under various projects/schemes including BharatNet Phase II. In addition, Central Government intends to allocate ₹1,632 Cr (excluding GST), including OPEX for 10 years for Amended BharatNet Program, which will be implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

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