

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4342
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND APRIL, 2026**

BHARATNET PROJECT IN KARNATAKA

4342 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Karnataka connected with high-speed optical fiber under BharatNet project;
- (b) whether the upgraded phase of BharatNet project has improved broadband reliability and maintenance at the village level;
- (c) the details of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections provided to rural institutions, including schools and primary health centers in Belagavi;
- (d) the employment generated for local youth engaged as rural fiber technicians and maintenance staff; and
- (e) the steps taken to integrate these networks seamlessly with local Common Service Centres (CSCs)?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) As on 21.03.2026, 6,084 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Karnataka have been made service ready with high-speed optical fiber under the BharatNet project. The Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) to upgrade the network created under Phases I and II and to extend connectivity to remaining Gram Panchayats (GPs) in a ring topology, enhancing network reliability. Further, the program also provides for establishment of a Network Operations Centre (NOC) and operation and maintenance of the BharatNet network for a period of 10 years.
- (c) As on 21.03.2026, 2,111 Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connection have been provided to rural institutions, including schools and primary health centers in Belagavi, District.
- (d) & (e) Under the Amended BharatNet Program, village level entrepreneurs, designated as BharatNet Udyamis (BNUs), are engaged to provide and maintain last-mile connectivity from villages to households. This initiative promotes employment generation at the village level by enabling local entrepreneurship. BNUs could be a village level entrepreneur, Internet Service Provider, Self Help Group (SHG), etc. BharatNet network is monitored through Network Operations Centre.
