

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1301
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026**

IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET IN WEST BENGAL

1301 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has adopted and notified the Telecommunications Right of Way Rules, 2024 for faster deployment of telecom infrastructure;
- (b) whether the implementation of Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in the State is expected to accelerate following the approval of RoW Rules;
- (c) the present status of BharatNet implementation in the State including the number of Gram Panchayats made service-ready and villages connected through optical fibre; and
- (d) the timeline fixed for completion of universal rural broadband connectivity in the State, particularly in remote and backward districts?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir. The Government of West Bengal has issued notification dated 15th May 2026 for implementation of the Telecommunications Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024 issued under 'The Telecommunications Act, 2023' for faster deployment of telecom infrastructure.
- (b) Yes Sir. The notification for implementation the Telecommunications RoW Rules, 2024 by the Government of West Bengal and the notification of the BharatNet Project as a Special Project by the Department of Telecommunications under the Telecommunications RoW Rules 2024 are aimed at accelerating the implementation of Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP).
- (c) &(d) In West Bengal, 2,767 Gram Panchayats (GPs) out of 3,340 GPs had been connected under the BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II. The Government has approved the ABP under the Design, Build, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) model for connecting all the GPs in the State including upgradation of the existing BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II network, and providing broadband connectivity to non-GP villages on demand basis. Under the ABP, the construction phase is three years from the date of signing of the Agreement with the Project Implementing Agency.
