

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1302
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026**

BHARATNET PHASE-III IN TAMIL NADU

1302 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of implementation of BharatNet Phase-III in Tamil Nadu, including the number of Gram Panchayats and villages connected with high-speed broadband services;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised for BharatNet projects in the State during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has assessed delays, infrastructure gaps and challenges in extending broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas of the State; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure timely completion of BharatNet Phase-III, affordable internet access and reliable digital connectivity for rural communities in the State?

ANSWER

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

(a), (c) & (d) The Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) under a design, built, operate and maintain model for upgradation of the existing BharatNet network, creation of network in balance Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Operation & Maintenance of GPs. The Government of India has approved the proposal of Government of Tamil Nadu for Utilization of BharatNet Network under ABP in the State and agreement for the same has already been shared with the State Government for signing. Under ABP, provision has been made for last mile connectivity to 4,767 non-GP villages on demand basis, in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Under state-led model of BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu, cost of work awarded is ₹1,544.44 crore (exclusive of taxes) out of which ₹1,208.55 crore has been disbursed during last five financial years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26). Subsequently, Government of India has provisioned total ₹1,632 crore in addition to the subsidy support for rural fiber connections under ABP for the state of Tamil Nadu.
