

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2094  
ANSWERED ON 06<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2026**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET IN PUNJAB**

**2094 DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the progress of digital connectivity initiatives in Punjab, including BharatNet and the rollout of 5G services;
- (b) the district-wise details of Gram Panchayats connected in the State under BharatNet vis-à-vis the target, along with the number of 5G BTSs installed in each district;
- (c) whether any implementation bottlenecks have been identified in BharatNet and whether any rural and border areas in the State still remain uncovered by broadband and mobile connectivity; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to expedite BharatNet implementation and strengthen broadband, 5G connectivity, particularly in border areas of the State?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) The Government of India approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023 for the upgradation/creation of network in all 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country using ring topology, including 13,337 GPs in Punjab. Under the ABP as on June 2026, 3,069 out of 13,337 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Punjab have been upgraded. Further, 5G networks have been rolled out in all States/ UTs across the country including Punjab and presently 18,727 number of 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been made operational to strengthen digital connectivity. Details are placed at **Annexure**.

(c) and (d) Challenges such as Right of Way (RoW) issues involving multiple agencies and damage to Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) due to development works have affected the implementation of BharatNet across the country, including Punjab. To address these challenges and enhance digital access, the Government has notified the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 (effective from 1st January, 2025), providing a uniform RoW framework and standardised charges across States/UTs for faster approvals. A centralized RoW portal has also been operational since 14th May, 2022, to streamline RoW permissions. Further, under the Amended BharatNet Program, measures such as creation/upgradation of the network in ring topology for improved reliability and establishment of a dedicated Network Operations Centre (NOC) have been undertaken to ensure reliable high-speed broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas, including Punjab.

**Annexure referred to in the reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2094, to be answered on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2026**

**Details of number of Gram Panchayats in Punjab upgraded under the Amended BharatNet Programme and no. of 5G BTSs made operational  
(as on June 2026)**

| <b>S.N O.</b> | <b>District Name</b>      | <b>Gram Panchayats under Scope</b> | <b>Gram Panchayats Upgraded</b> | <b>No. of 5G BTS</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1             | Amritsar                  | 866                                | 248                             | 1,658                |
| 2             | Tarn Taran                | 578                                | 146                             | 510                  |
| 3             | Bathinda                  | 314                                | 111                             | 843                  |
| 4             | Mansa                     | 246                                | 23                              | 406                  |
| 5             | S.A.S Nagar               | 342                                | 28                              | 1,516                |
| 6             | Faridkot                  | 243                                | 0                               | 342                  |
| 7             | Fazilka                   | 436                                | 156                             | 512                  |
| 8             | Ferozepur                 | 844                                | 362                             | 554                  |
| 9             | Moga                      | 340                                | 160                             | 521                  |
| 10            | Sri Muktsar Sahib         | 271                                | 60                              | 506                  |
| 11            | Hoshiarpur                | 1,406                              | 359                             | 929                  |
| 12            | Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar | 467                                | 70                              | 351                  |
| 13            | Jalandhar                 | 903                                | 222                             | 1,743                |
| 14            | Kapurthala                | 549                                | 213                             | 598                  |
| 15            | Fatehgarh Sahib           | 433                                | 86                              | 383                  |
| 16            | Ludhiana                  | 941                                | 118                             | 2,995                |
| 17            | Gurdaspur                 | 1,306                              | 224                             | 873                  |
| 18            | Pathankot                 | 424                                | 111                             | 456                  |
| 19            | Patiala                   | 1,041                              | 195                             | 1,377                |
| 20            | Rupnagar                  | 611                                | 22                              | 425                  |
| 21            | Barnala                   | 175                                | 8                               | 317                  |
| 22            | Malerkotla                | 176                                | 0                               | 216                  |
| 23            | Sangrur                   | 425                                | 147                             | 696                  |
|               | <b>Total</b>              | <b>13,337</b>                      | <b>3,069</b>                    | <b>18,727</b>        |

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