

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2112
ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2026**

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

2112 SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a plan to provide reliable high-speed internet connectivity to all Gram Panchayats across the country to promote digital inclusion, e-governance, online education, telemedicine and rural entrepreneurship;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats connected with high-speed broadband facilities under Government schemes, State/UT-wise, along with the number of pending connections;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure affordable, uninterrupted and quality internet services in rural areas, including maintenance, last-mile connectivity and coverage in remote villages; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for universal rural digital connectivity to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural India and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) BharatNet program has been approved for provision for broadband connectivity in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) for upgradation of the existing network created under Phase-I and Phase-II of BharatNet and to create incremental network for new GPs, and to connect the non-GP villages on demand basis, operation and maintenance and provision of 1.5 crore fibre internet connections. As of 30.06.2026, a total 43,908 km of optical fibre cable have been laid and a total of 13,494 Gram Panchayats have been upgraded under Amended BharatNet Program. Details are at **Annexure-I**.

Under the Government-funded 4G Saturation Project and other mobile connectivity projects, as on 30.06.2026, 24,812 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country, covering 35,050 villages in rural and remote areas.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in the reply to part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Un-starred Question No. 2112, to be answered on 06th August, 2026

Details of optical fibre cable laid and number of Gram Panchayats upgraded under the Amended BharatNet Program as on 30.06.2026.

S. no.	State / Union territory	Gram Panchayats	Optical fibre cable laid under Amended BharatNet Program (km)	Gram Panchayats upgraded under Amended BharatNet Program
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	72	42	62
2	Bihar	8,405	1,788	1,200
3	Himachal Pradesh	3,615	4,119	739
4	Jammu and Kashmir	4,299	930	295
5	Karnataka	6,090	784	344
6	Madhya Pradesh	22,858	10,917	1,728
7	Puducherry	109	382	109
8	Punjab	13,337	3,949	3,069
9	Uttar Pradesh	59,290	13,292	4,010
10	Uttarakhand	7,937	7,222	1,507
11	Other States	1,39,051	483	431
Total		2,65,063	43,908	13,494
