

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 497
ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2026**

TELECOM CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

497 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the telecom connectivity in rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) the district-wise details of villages provided with 4G/5G connectivity under the Central schemes;
- (c) the funds released during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken to bridge the digital divide?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Government reviews telecom connectivity based on inputs from Telecom Service Providers, and villages identified as uncovered are taken up for the provision of mobile connectivity under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded mobile connectivity schemes. Out of 43,931 villages in Maharashtra (as per data of Registrar General of India), 43,078 villages are covered with mobile connectivity and 42,800 villages are covered with 4G connectivity.
- (b) As on 30.06.2026, 2,821 towers for 4G connectivity have been made on air covering 3,405 villages/locations in Maharashtra, under various mobile schemes funded by Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). The district-wise details of telecom towers commissioned under the Digital Bharat Nidhi Schemes in Maharashtra are at **Annex-I**.
- (c) During the last three financial years, i.e., FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26, an amount of ₹2,680.81 crore has been disbursed under various Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) schemes for providing telecom connectivity in the rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra.
- (d) To bridge the digital divide and improve digital connectivity, Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi for expansion of mobile connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country. In addition, the BharatNet project aims to provide high-speed fiber broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages on demand basis.

Annex-I referred to in the reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 497 to be answered on 23rd July, 2026, raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament, regarding "Telecom connectivity in rural areas of Maharashtra"

District-wise number of telecom towers commissioned under the Digital Bharat Nidhi Schemes in Maharashtra:

S.no.	District	Tower on Air	Villages/locations covered
1	Ahmednagar	143	153
2	Akola	33	38
3	Amravati	72	82
4	Beed	46	46
5	Bhandara	15	17
6	Buldhana	44	52
7	Chandrapur	141	180
8	Chatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad)	16	16
9	Dhule	41	52
10	Gadchiroli	605	751
11	Gondia	50	51
12	Hingoli	8	8
13	Jalgaon	81	87
14	Jalna	19	19
15	Kolhapur	48	59
16	Latur	176	181
17	Nagpur	118	135
18	Nanded	67	69
19	Nandurbar	114	132
20	Nashik	82	102
21	Osmanabad	16	17
22	Palghar	84	93
23	Parbhani	12	12
24	Pune	67	86
25	Raigad	133	186
26	Ratnagiri	204	310
27	Sangli	10	11
28	Satara	71	127
29	Sindhudurg	157	166
30	Solapur	8	8
31	Thane	63	74
32	Wardha	25	29
33	Washim	15	16
34	Yavatmal	37	40
Total		2,821	3,405
