

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4170  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN KERALA**

**4170. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:  
SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of mobile and digital connectivity in Kerala with the number of villages covered and not covered;
- (b) the challenges, if any, faced in expanding mobile and digital infrastructure across Kerala; and
- (c) the measures taken to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to digital services in Kerala?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) All the 1,438 villages (as per data of Registrar General of India) in Kerala, are covered with mobile connectivity and internet connectivity.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis.

Further, some key initiatives taken by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to bridge the digital divide and access to digital services in the country including Kerala are as follows:

- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA):** In order to improve the digital literacy rate, especially in rural India, the Government of India implemented a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. As on 31st March 2024 against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country. In the state of Kerala under the PMGDISHA scheme a total of 1,77,165 candidates were enrolled, out of which, a total of 1,18,132 candidates were trained.

- **Common Services Centres (CSCs)** are offering government and business services in digital mode in rural areas through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). Over 800 services are being delivered through CSCs, including government services, financial services and services related to Aadhaar, various social welfare schemes, education, tele-medicine, travel bookings, utility payments. As on January, 2025 5.97 lakh CSCs are functional across the country (rural + urban), including 9,948 CSCs in Kerala.
- In addition, citizens across the country, including Kerala, have also been enabled to access e-services under various initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), DigiLocker, National scholarship Portal, Myscheme, e-Hospital and MyGov, etc.

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