

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN TAMIL NADU

**5195. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI NAVASKANI K:
SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the State of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details of the progress made under the NBM since its launch;
- (b) the total length of optical fiber cables laid under the National Broadband Mission in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the number of villages and Gram Panchayats connected through broadband services under the Mission and the challenges forced in implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu particularly in Kallakurichi Parliamentary Constituency;
- (d) the timeline set for achieving 100% broadband connectivity in rural and urban areas;
- (e) the steps taken to address the challenges in laying fiber-optic cables in difficult terrains including hilly and remote areas;
- (f) the details of broadband penetration in tribal and remote regions under the NBM;
- (g) the measures being taken to ensure that the rural and remote areas in Tamil Nadu benefit equally from the broadband expansion under this Mission;
- (h) whether any special schemes have been implemented to improve connectivity in such areas;
- (i) whether the Government has allocated sufficient funds for the successful implementation of NBM in the State of Tamil Nadu and the total amount sanctioned in this regard; and
- (j) the timelines for achieving 100% connectivity in tribal belts?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (j) The Government has taken the following key actions to improve broadband connectivity in rural areas and bridge the digital divide by implementing the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the country, including the state of Tamil Nadu:

1. Launched the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal on 14th May 2022, thus streamlining Right of Way (RoW) permissions for Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower installation. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024, further streamlined RoW processes.
2. Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural areas (including tribal belts) and bridging the digital divide with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). Key initiatives include:
 - a. The Amended BharatNet project providing broadband to Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages (on demand).
 - b. Various schemes for high-speed internet and mobile services (including 4G) in remote areas, such as the North-East, Islands, LWE(Left-Wing Extremism)-affected regions, Aspirational Districts, and border villages.
 - c. Submarine optical fiber cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar and Kochi and Lakshadweep for faster internet connectivity.

Under the state-led model in Tamil Nadu, the cost of work awarded is Rs.1544.44 crore (exclusive of taxes), out of which Rs.1093.74 crore has been utilized up to 28th Feb 2025. As of 24th Feb 2025, 10,298 GPs out of 12,524 have been made service-ready under the BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu. 53,511 route kilometres of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been laid (as of 31st December 2024) under the BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu. As of Feb 2025, 12,53,997 Fiber to the home (FTTH) connections have been provided through BharatNet.
