

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2936
ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025**

INTERNET AND WI-FI FACILITY FOR FARMERS

2936. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided internet and Wi-Fi facility in all the villages of the country for the benefit of farmers so that they can increase their knowledge about agriculture sector and keep them updated about new developments in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the measures/actions being taken by the Government on this issue especially in the State of West Bengal; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the target of providing internet and Wi-Fi facility in all the villages across the country be achieved?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per RGI (Registrar General of India) data, out of the total 6,44,131 villages in the country, 6,24,147 villages are having internet facility (3G/4G) through mobile coverage network as on 31.05.2025.

(b) & (c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages in the country including West Bengal. A total of 13,01,193 no. of FTTH connections have been commissioned in the country including 58,251 no. of FTTH connections of West Bengal through BharatNet. The Wi-Fi technology enabled FTTH connections are being used for accessing the all type of online services such as e-education, e-health, e-governance, e-commerce, etc. including the farmers in increasing their knowledge about agriculture and keep them updated about new development in agriculture. As on May 2025, out of the total 40,971 villages in West Bengal, 40,935 villages are having internet facility (3G/4G) through mobile network coverage.

Also, various steps such as 4G saturation project, Border Out Posts (BoP)-Border Intelligence Posts (BiP) project, BharatNet project etc under Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) are being taken up by to improve the mobile coverage and internet connectivity in villages of West Bengal.

Sl. No	Name of Project/ Scheme	Planned	Remarks
1	4G Saturation	35	14 mobile tower sites are radiating
2	BoP-BiP	35	4 mobile sites are radiating
3	BharatNet	3340	2677 Gram Panchayats are connected by Optical Fibre. Amended BharatNet to cover all Gram Panchayats on Optical Fibre Ring topology is planned.

Further in compliance with Part-V (Optical Fiber Cable) of the Scheme named as “Scheme for Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment 2022-23”, approval has been received for projects amounting Rs. 2716 crores in respect of 24 states including Rs. 232 crores for the state of West Bengal.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) to proliferate Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks under the framework of Prime Minister’s Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PMWANI). As on date 3,08,283 PM Wani Wi-Fi Hotspots are installed across the country including 4,139 in West Bengal.
