

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4421
ANSWERED ON 20TH AUGUST, 2025**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION IN RURAL AREAS IN TAMIL NADU

4421. SHRI MANI A:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the National Broadband Mission (NBM) with the objective of expanding high-speed internet and digital infrastructure across the country particularly in rural and remote areas of Tamil Nadu including Dharmapuri district;
- (b) if so, the details of the progress made under the NBM in Tamil Nadu especially in Dharmapuri Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (c) whether any timelines have been set for universal broadband coverage in all villages and hamlets of Dharmapuri under the NBM and if so, the expected date of completion; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the digital divide in backward and tribal blocks of Dharmapuri including the provision of affordable internet, digital devices and localised digital content?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has taken the following key actions to improve internet connectivity in rural & remote areas (Including backward and tribal blocks) and bridge the digital divide by implementing the National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the country, including the state of Tamil Nadu:

- i. Launched the Centralized Right of Way (RoW) Portal on May 14, 2022, thus facilitating the streamlining of the RoW permissions for the deployment of telecom infrastructure viz. Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower installation.
- ii. Processes to obtain RoW permissions and applicable charges were further made uniform through Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 under 'The Telecommunications Act, 2023'. The rules are effective from January 01, 2025. The rules are further streamlining and expediting the telecom infrastructure deployment in the country.

Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable internet connectivity and bridging the digital divide through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). Key initiatives include:

- i. The BharatNet project providing broadband to Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages (on demand).

- ii. Submarine optical fiber cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar (2312 km) and Kochi and Lakshadweep (1869 km), enabling faster internet connectivity.
- iii. 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

Under the state-led model in Tamil Nadu, as on 11th August 2025, a total of 11,758 Gram Panchayats (GPs) out of 12,525 have been made service-ready and around 57,000 route KM of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid under the BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu. In Dharmapuri constituency, 240 GPs out of total 251 have been made service-ready.

As on 31st July 2025, out of 16,488 villages, 16,483 have mobile network coverage in Tamil Nadu and 479 villages out of 487 villages of Dharmapuri constituency are having 3G/4G/5G Coverage.
