

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1759  
ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**BHARATNET INITIATIVE FOR TRIBAL AREAS CONNECTIVITY**

**1759. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve telecom connectivity in tribal areas under the BharatNet;
- (b) whether work has been initiated in areas such as the Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district and rural areas of Prakasam and Guntur districts in Andhra Pradesh under the project and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details on targeted approaches to increase internet and technological literacy and affordability of personal electronic devices and internet packages alongside internet penetration?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs). The total number of GPs undertaken under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II are 2,22,341 GPs, out of which 2,14,904 are Service Ready. Further, Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023 through which Optical Fiber Connectivity is to be provided to all ~2.64 lakh GPs and ~3.8 lakh non-GP villages on demand basis which includes tribal areas. Under ABP, there is also a provision for providing 1.5 crore rural home fiber connections.

(b) The details of GPs made service ready under BharatNet in Alluri Sitharama Raju (incl. Paderu division), Visakhapatnam, Prakasam and Guntur districts are as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of GPs Service Ready</b>
Alluri Sitharama Raju (incl. Paderu division)	427
Visakhapatnam	83
Prakasam	718
Guntur	276

(c) Provision of subsidy for 1.5 crore FTTH connections through BharatNet has been provided by Government for affordable FTTH connections to rural customers. Government has also taken various initiatives to support electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India including the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing which includes mobile phone manufacturing. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) were launched under the Digital India Programme to achieve digital literacy leading to training of 6.39 crore individuals across the country. Various digital literacy courses are also being provided through National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).

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