GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2825
ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION (NBM)

2825. **SHRI NAVASKANI K:**
SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI SELVAM G:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has taken measures under the National Broadband Mission (NBM) to enhance broadband connectivity and bridge the digital divide in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b)   if so, the details of broadband and Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity projects undertaken under BharatNet in different districts of Tamil Nadu;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to integrate the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 with the ongoing digital infrastructure expansion in Tamil Nadu to ensure efficient Right of Way (RoW) clearances and faster execution of broadband projects; and

(d)   the time by which the Government proposes to make all the Gram Panchayats in all districts of Tamil Nadu fully service-ready under the BharatNet project?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (c)   Yes. The Government has taken the following key measures 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.

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. The RoW portal has been further upgraded in the majority of states in accordance with RoW Rules 2024 including the state of Tamil Nadu.

(b) & (d)   The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is further ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural & remote areas (including tribal belts) 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.   Various schemes for high-speed internet/broadband 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.
iii.   Submarine optical fiber cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar (2312 km) and Kochi and Lakshadweep (1869 km), enabling faster internet connectivity.

Under the state-led model of BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu, a total of 11,866 GPs out of 12525 have been made service-ready (as of December 12, 2025) and for service provisioning, 9,686 Optical Line Terminals (OLTs) have been deployed in GPs and Blocks to provide FTTH connectivity to households. The district-wise details of OFC laid are given in **Annexure-I**. The timeline for the completion of the BharatNet project is March 2027.

Annexure referred to in Part (b) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2825 for Answer on 17.12.2025

S.no	Districts	Total OFC laid in route KM
1	Chengalpattu	1382
2	Kancheepuram	1180
3	Krishnagiri	1924
4	Ranipet	1224
5	Tirupathur	929
6	Tiruvallur	1950
7	Tiruvannamalai	3472
8	Vellore	844
9	Ariyalur	867
10	Cuddalore	2484
11	Perambalur	683
12	Villupuram	2886
13	Kallakurichi	1739
14	Salem	1653
15	Erode	1197
16	The Nilgiris	292
17	Dharmapuri	1352
18	Coimbatore	1231
19	Karur	994
20	Mayiladuthurai	890
21	Nagapattinam	734
22	Namakkal	1431
23	Pudukottai	2235
24	Thanjavur	2337
25	Tiruchirapalli	2153
26	Tiruppur	1467
27	Tiruvarur	1743
28	Dindigul	1538
29	Kanniyakumari	407
30	Madurai	1498
31	Ramanathapuram	1700
32	Sivagangai	2021
33	Tenkasi	1171
34	Theni	536
35	Thoothukkudi	1744
36	Tirunelveli	1076
37	Virudhunagar	1703
	Total	**54666**

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