GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2026

EXPANSION OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVED BROADBAND AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN MAHARASHTRA

***480. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:**
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion of telecom infrastructure and improved broadband and internet connectivity under various Digital India initiatives have significantly accelerated the adoption of digital services across the country including Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of mobile tower density, broadband penetration and fibre connectivity achieved during the last five years in Maharashtra, district-wise particularly in rural, tribal and aspirational districts;

(c) whether disparities persist in internet speed, service reliability and affordability between urban centres like Mumbai and semi-urban and rural regions of the State and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the impact of connectivity gaps on digital payments, online education, telemedicine and e-governance services in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time-bound steps proposed to strengthen last-mile connectivity, address network congestion and ensure inclusive digital access across all regions of Maharashtra?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 480 FOR 25TH MARCH, 2026 REGARDING "EXPANSION OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVED BROADBAND AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN MAHARASHTRA."

(a) Over the last 12 years, internet subscribers have increased from about 26.73 crore in December 2014 to over 102.86 crore in December 2025, while average data usage per user has increased from 0.09 giga byte (GB) to 25.70 GB per month over the same period. At the same time, the cost per GB has declined significantly from ₹269 to ₹7.87, making data more affordable. This increase in access and affordability has led to large-scale adoption of digital services across the country, including in the State of Maharashtra. Unified Payment Interface (UPI) recorded 2039.418 crore transactions, amounting to a total value of ₹26.84 lakh crore in February 2026, while direct benefit transfer of ₹6.17 lakh crore was made through 586 crore transactions during the financial year (FY) 2025-26.

(b) to (e) District-wise details of towers, base transceiver stations and service-ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) connected under the BharatNet programme of the Government and mobile coverage status in villages in the State of Maharashtra are given in the **Annex**. Disparities regarding affordability have largely reduced with mobile data costing on the average ₹7.87 per GB across the country.

Though coverage to various locations is provided by Telecom Service Providers based on techno-commercial considerations, the Government, with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi, has approved various schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of mobile towers in rural and remote areas across the country, including under 4G saturation projects by installing 34,780 mobile towers covering 46,331 villages and the Amended BharatNet Programme for the provisioning of high-speed broadband to all 2.65 lakh GPs and broadband connectivity on demand basis to the remaining 3.8 lakh non-GP villages with minimum demand for five home fibre internet connections.

Annex referred to in the reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *480 to be answered on 25th March, 2026, regarding "Expansion of Telecom Infrastructure and Improved Broadband and Internet Connectivity in Maharashtra"

District-wise details of towers, base transceiver stations and service-ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) connected under the BharatNet programme of the Government and mobile coverage status in villages in the State of Maharashtra, as of February 2026

Sl. No.	District	Towers	Base transceiver stations	Service-ready GPs under BharatNet	Mobile coverage (villages)
1.	Ahmednagar	3,308	13,003	987	1,575
2.	Akola	1,159	4,262	490	963
3.	Amravati	1,908	7,018	836	1,872
4.	Beed	1,696	6,434	1,013	1,368
5.	Bhandara	705	2,667	535	870
6.	Buldhana	1,480	5,734	720	1,410
7.	Chandrapur	1,368	4,831	819	1,742
8.	Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar	2,971	11,546	751	1,355
9.	Dharashiv	1,118	4,169	621	738
10.	Dhule	1,250	4,925	539	714
11.	Gadchiroli	1,099	2,998	341	1,520
12.	Gondia	839	2,832	553	902
13.	Hingoli	642	2,106	559	707
14.	Jalgaon	2,448	9,548	1,110	1,508
15.	Jalna	1,201	4,748	780	965
16.	Kolhapur	2,548	10,450	807	1,229
17.	Latur	1,597	6,084	786	943
18.	Mumbai	5,033	17,336	-	-
19.	Mumbai Suburban	7,638	26,899	-	-
20.	Nagpur	4,126	15,576	761	1,862
21.	Nanded	1,842	7,004	1,020	1,651
22.	Nandurbar	983	3,187	590	905
23.	Nashik	4,061	16,635	1,052	1,891
24.	Palghar	2,397	9,342	460	899
25.	Parbhani	1,034	3,867	695	839
26.	Pune	11,625	45,757	1,145	1,836
27.	Raigad	3,012	11,344	793	1,975
28.	Ratnagiri	1,071	4,030	486	1,472
29.	Sangli	1,889	7,971	694	720
30.	Satara	2,016	8,649	1,227	1,720
31.	Sindhudurg	573	2,352	409	704
32.	Solapur	2,834	11,725	812	1,158
33.	Thane	9,650	33,468	68	806
34.	Wardha	898	3,286	507	1,362
35.	Washim	609	2,270	486	781
36.	Yavatmal	1,723	5,796	1,123	2,101
	Total	**90,351**	**3,39,849**	**24,575**	**43,063**

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