GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1999
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2026

COMPLIANCE OF DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY STANDARDS BY DATA
CENTRES AND CLOUD SERVICES

1999. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has assessed the current status of India's digital infrastructure including broadband connectivity, data centres, cloud facilities and digital payment networks;

(b)   if so, the details thereof including the percentage of rural and urban areas covered under reliable high-speed internet and optical fibre connectivity;

(c)   whether large parts of rural and tribal India still lack reliable internet connectivity and basic digital infrastructure despite the Government's claims under Digital India;

(d)   whether BharatNet project has met its targets for optical fibre connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and the steps being taken by the Government to address delays;

(e)   the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that data centres and cloud services located in the country comply with data protection and privacy standards; and

(f)   the steps taken by the Government to strengthen cybersecurity and digital resilience in public infrastructure in view of the recent rise in cyberattacks and digital service outrages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)   India's digital infrastructure has grown rapidly driven by significant expansion in telecommunication and internet services. As of 31.12.2025, the total number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) for 4G and 5G technologies across all States/UTs of India is 20,40,850 and 5,18,854 respectively. As of 31.12.2025, 6,31,814 villages out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (as per data of Registrar General of India), are covered with 4G mobile connectivity. As of 30.11.2025, the total broadband subscribers in the country are more than one billion.

Further, Government is providing cloud services as part of Digital Government under Meghraj to accelerate delivery of cloud-based e-services. The data centre ecosystem in India is largely developed, owned, and operated by the private and corporate sector which is estimated at 1,280 MW as per industry reports.

(d)   As of 31.12.2025 2,14,904 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country. Further, Amended BharatNet Project aims to provide connectivity to all Gram Panchayat (GPs) in the country including upgrading existing network to ring topology and connectivity to about

3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis as well as utilization through provisioning of broadband services such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc.

(e)   Government has prescribed stringent security requirement for the empaneled cloud service providers who are handling government data including compliance with international security and privacy standards along with other security requirements to ensure cloud security, service management, and data protection. These compliances and standards cover critical security aspects such as risk assessment, security controls, service delivery, incident management, intrusion detection, data privacy, log retention, data encryption, access control, etc.

(f)   The Government has taken various initiatives to strengthen cyber security and prevent cyber-attacks which inter-alia, includes designation of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) as the national agency for responding to cyber security incidents and establishment of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC), conducting mock drills for assessment of preparedness as well as training.

*****