

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 760
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

UNIVERSAL BROADBAND COVERAGE

**760. DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the percentage of Gram Panchayats connected under BharatNet as of January 2026, and the average bandwidth available per village;
- (b) the details of the actions taken/being taken by the Government to achieve universal broadband coverage along with expected timeline thereof;
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats connected to the optical fiber network under the BharatNet project in Gorakhpur district so far;
- (d) the number of Gram Panchayats in which broadband services are fully functional; and
- (e) the time limit set for providing connectivity in the remaining Gram Panchayats in the said district?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As on 19.01.2026, 2,14,905 out of 2,22,341 Gram Panchayats have been made service-ready under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II for providing high-speed broadband internet up to 1 Gbps. Further, the Cabinet approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023, which envisage to connect all GPs through ring architecture and providing high speed broadband connectivity to ~3.8 Lakhs non-GP Villages on-demand basis.

(c) & (d) As of December 2025, out of 1355 GPs planned in Gorakhpur District, 1305 GPs (1301 GPs on OFC and 4 GPs on Satellite) have been made service ready.

(e) Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) has been approved under Design, Built, Operate & Maintain (DBOM) model for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance GPs, Operation & Maintenance for 10 years and utilization.
