GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 912
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION (NBM) 2.0

912.

SMT. KAMLESH JANGDE:	DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:	SHRI SELVAM G:
SHRI LUMBARAM CHOUDHARY:	SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:	SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:	DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT: SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
SHRI DINESHBHAI MAKWANA:	SHRI MANISH JAISWAL:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:	SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:	SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:	SHRI GODAM NAGESH: SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:	SMT. LOVELY ANAND:
SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:	SHRI AVIMANYU SETHI: SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:	SHRI NAVASKANI K:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the progress achieved under the National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0 since its launch in terms of optical fibre expansion, broadband coverage of Gram Panchayats and anchor institutions State/UT-wise, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Maharashtra;

(b)   the total number of Gram Panchayats that have been covered under the National Broadband Mission 2.0 in the state of Rajasthan, particularly in the Pali Lok Sabha Constituency;

(c)   the steps taken to address regional and rural–urban disparities in telecom penetration, particularly in rural and remote areas, particularly Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh;

(d)   the impact of Right of Way Rules (RoW), 2024 and the Centralised RoW Portal on accelerating infrastructure deployment, particularly Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh;

(e)   whether any State-wise or district-wise assessment has been undertaken under NBM 2.0, especially for Maharashtra and Jalgaon Lok Sabha constituency;

(f)   the details of targets set for the next phase of broadband and mobile infrastructure expansion in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, State/UT-wise;

(g)   the time frame within which the Government proposes to make all the Gram Panchayats in all districts of Tamil Nadu fully service-ready under the BharatNet project; and

(h)   the details of the future plan and expansion done in last 5 years in broadband and mobile infrastructure expansion in Palghar district in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (c)   The Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) length increased from 19.35 lakh route KM to 42.53 lakh route KM (as of December 31, 2025) in the country since the National Broadband Mission (NBM) launch in 2019. The State/UT-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.

Further, The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband/internet connectivity and addressing disparities in telecom penetration in rural & remote areas and bridging the digital divide through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) in the country including the state of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Key initiatives include:

   i.   The BharatNet project provides 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.

As of December 31, 2025, a total of 2,14,904 (Gram Panchayats) GPs have been made service-ready under the BharatNet project in the country. In the Pali Lok Sabha constituency of Rajasthan, out of 327 GPs planned, 307 GPs have been made service-ready. The State-wise details of planned and service-ready GPs excluding Block Headquarters (BHQs) are given in **Annexure-II**. So far, 14,07,784 Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections have been provided under the BharatNet project across the country including anchor institutions such as schools, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Anganwadi centres and Panchayat offices.

Under the 4G Saturation Project (as of December 31, 2025) in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, a total of 4,917 villages were planned, of which 4,584 villages have been covered. The status of the 4G Saturation Project is given in **Annexure-III**.

(d)   The Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 (effective from January 01, 2025) under The Telecommunications Act, 2023, have further accelerated telecom infrastructure deployment by standardising the Right of Way (RoW) framework including uniform RoW charges nationwide for obtaining RoW permissions across different states and municipalities, thereby facilitating faster approvals and enabling timely deployment of telecom infrastructure across the country.

The Centralized RoW Portal, launched on May 14, 2022 for the submission of RoW applications on a single platform, ensuring transparent processes, minimising paperwork and thereby reducing the delays and disposal time of RoW applications, thus facilitating the streamlining of the RoW permissions for the deployment of telecom infrastructure viz. OFC laying and telecom tower installation across the country including the state of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The RoW portal has been further upgraded in the majority of states in accordance with RoW Rules 2024.

(e)   No. However, in the Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, all 653 Gram Panchayats (GPs) planned have been connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under the BharatNet Project.

(f) & (h)   The following key targets are set for the broadband infrastructure expansion, in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 under NBM 2.0:

   i.   Operational Optical fiber cable (OFC) connectivity to 2.70 lakh villages with 95% uptime

   ii. Broadband Connectivity to 90% anchor institutions- Schools, PHCs, Anganwadi Centre and Panchayat Offices.

   Further, on 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) for up-gradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance GPs, Operation and Maintenance for 10 years and utilization. The connectivity to remaining non-GP villages is proposed to be provided on demand basis from their respective GPs including the target of providing 1.50 crore FTTH connections in next five years across all States/UTs with priority to cover Government institutions including schools, PHCs, Anganwadi centres, Panchayat offices etc.

   The project for saturation of 4G mobile services is also under implementation with other schemes for mobile services. The project/schemes are for providing mobile services in uncovered, rural, remote, difficult, border villages and other priority areas of the country.

   As of December 31, 2025, 23,694 mobile towers have been commissioned in uncovered remote & rural areas of the country under various Government funded mobile projects.

   In Palghar district in Maharashtra, under the BharatNet Project, as of December 31, 2025, out of the 474 planned GPs, 461 GPs have been made service-ready. Further, 4,336 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed during the last five years. The year-wise details are given in **Annexure-IV**.

(g)   BharatNet in Tamil Nadu is being implemented through State-led model.

Annexure referred to in Part (a), (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 912 for Answer on 04.02.2026.

S. No	State/UT Name	OFC Laid (as of 2019) in route KM	OFC Laid (as of Dec 31, 2025) in route KM
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	806	1544
2	Andhra Pradesh	90335	251753
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5247	9913
4	Assam	38789	93234
5	Bihar	76525	129992
6	Chandigarh (UT)	2055	24763
7	Chhattisgarh	55138	118793
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)	329	1328
9	Delhi (UT)	37632	77409
10	Goa	3366	5065
11	Gujarat	115169	290429
12	Haryana	55853	83932
13	Himachal Pradesh	21769	35787
14	Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	19624	44479
15	Jharkhand	37151	82034
16	Karnataka	127418	226763
17	Kerala	56490	259252
18	Ladakh (UT)	3110	5663
19	Lakshadweep (UT)	34	59
20	Madhya Pradesh	151207	263453
21	Maharashtra	198145	406637
22	Manipur	5080	10499
23	Meghalaya	3827	11952
24	Mizoram	3016	8332
25	Nagaland	5042	10057
26	Odisha	71865	156298
27	Puducherry (UT)	-	138
28	Punjab	68755	197105
29	Rajasthan	138865	239458
30	Sikkim	3035	4827
31	Tamil Nadu	121462	308907
32	Telangana	62032	237946
33	Tripura	6272	11294
34	Uttar Pradesh	232732	406697
35	Uttarakhand	27855	50178
36	West Bengal	89872	187364
	Total	**1935903**	**4253337**

Annexure referred to in Part (a), (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 912 for Answer on 04.02.2026.

S. No	State Name	Total GPs planned (excluding BHQs)	Total Service ready (excluding BHQs)
1	Assam	2665	1507
2	Bihar	8405	8340
3	Chhattisgarh	11711	9695
4	Haryana	6256	6082
5	Jammu & Kashmir	4299	1101
6	Karnataka	6090	6084
7	Kerala	978	978
8	Madhya Pradesh	22858	17850
9	Maharashtra	27939	24575
10	Punjab	13337	12668
11	Rajasthan	11352	8776
12	Uttar Pradesh (E)	43072	34274
13	Uttar Pradesh (W)	16218	12472
14	Uttarakhand	7937	1993
15	West Bengal	3340	2677
16	Sikkim	185	35
17	Chandigarh	12	12
18	Lakshadweep	10	9
19	Arunachal Pradesh	1959	1124
20	Nagaland	1007	236
21	Manipur	2936	1475
22	Mizoram	784	540
23	Tripura	1179	740
24	Meghalaya	1857	698
25	Gujarat	14324	14320
26	Daman & Diu	18	18
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	20
28	Puducherry	110	98
29	Andhra Pradesh	13481	12955
30	Telangana	12865	10833
31	Odisha	6798	6785
32	Jharkhand	4416	4390
33	Himachal Pradesh	3615	410
34	Ladakh	193	193
35	Goa	191	0
36	Tamil Nadu	12525	10869
37	Andaman & Nicobar	72	72
	Total	**265014**	**214904**

Annexure referred to in Part (a), (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 912 for Answer on 04.02.2026.

S. No	State Name	Tower Planned			Village Planned	On Air			Village Covered
		New	Upgrade	Total		New	Upgrade	Total	
1	Andhra Pradesh	1339	7	1346	2953	1236	7	1243	2759
2	Rajasthan	1341	17	1358	1656	1242	17	1259	1528
3	Tamil Nadu	222	35	257	308	220	35	255	297
	Total	**2902**	**59**	**2961**	**4917**	**2698**	**59**	**2757**	**4584**

Table title: **Status of the 4G Saturation Project (as of December 31, 2025)**

Annexure referred to in Part (h) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 912 for Answer on 04.02.2026.

Number of BTSs installed in Palghar District					
Year	**2G**	**3G**	**4G**	**5G**	**Total BTSs**
2021	79	1	670	0	750
2022	71	0	438	152	661
2023	81	0	289	1099	1469
2024	113	0	345	154	612
2025	208	1	466	169	844
Total	**552**	**2**	**2208**	**1574**	**4336**

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