

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 146
ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2026**

UTILISATION AND QUALITY OF SERVICES UNDER BHARATNET AND PM-WANI

***146. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the implementation, utilisation and quality of services under BharatNet and PM-WANI in the districts of Katni, Panna and town of Khajuraho in the Khajuraho Lok Sabha Constituency region;
- (b) the details and number of Gram Panchayats with active BharatNet broadband connectivity, operational FTTH connections, functional PM-WANI hotspots and digitally enabled Common Service Centres in these districts;
- (c) whether gaps relating to last-mile connectivity, network uptime, bandwidth, hotspot utilisation, PDO sustainability or maintenance have been identified and the corrective measures taken and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether schools, Primary Health Centres, FPOs, tourism destinations, MSMEs and other public institutions have been prioritised for reliable broadband connectivity and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures proposed to strengthen digital literacy, local digital entrepreneurship, e-governance, telemedicine, online education and rural livelihoods through effective digital connectivity?

**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 TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 146 FOR 29TH JULY, 2026 REGARDING “UTILISATION AND QUALITY OF SERVICES UNDER BHARATNET AND PM-WANI” ASKED BY SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA.

(a) & (b) As on 30.6.2026, the number of Operational Gram Panchayats (GPs) and active Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections under BharatNet, PM-WANI hotspots and Common Service Centres in the districts of Katni, Panna and the town of Khajuraho in the Khajuraho Lok Sabha Constituency region are as below:

S. no.	District / town	BharatNet		PM-WANI hotspots	Common Service Centres*
		Operational GPs	Active FTTH		
1	Katni	152	398	76	858
2	Panna	66	703	40	587
3	Khajuraho town	As BharatNet is implemented in rural areas, Khajuraho town is not covered under BharatNet.		21	209 [#]

* As of May 2026

For Rajnagar Sub-District, within which Khajuraho town falls

Based on an assessment of Phases I and II of the BharatNet project, the Government approved the Amended BharatNet Programme in August 2023. Infrastructure and performance parameters for BharatNet under the programme, including uptime of the network, are monitored through Network Operating Centre and a digital platform.

Under the PM-WANI framework, service provision is entirely market-driven, relying on local entrepreneurial initiative based on techno-commercial viability in the local area. Government's role is limited to policy enablement.

(c) Utilisation and quality of services of BharatNet are monitored through periodic review meetings, performance reports and feedback to ensure effective service delivery. Under the Amended BharatNet Programme, the following corrective measures have been taken to improve the network infrastructure and quality of services:

- (i) Upgrade of the BharatNet network from linear to ring architecture and Service Level Assurance based operation and maintenance;
- (ii) Setting up of Central and State Network Operating Centres;
- (iii) Videography/photography of trenching and fibre-laying; and
- (iv) Mapping of network and quality testing on a Geographic Information System.

The Government has carried out the following policy interventions in the PM-WANI framework:

- (i) The use of regular FTTH, aggregation of multiple Access Points to a single backhaul and QR-based authentication for secondary devices have been allowed with a view to cut costs and boost the viability of Public Data Offices (PDOs).
- (ii) Offloading of mobile data and sending of promotional or branding content to users have been allowed, with a view to enhance viability.

(iii) Home and business wi-fi have been allowed to join PM-WANI, mutual roaming between PDOs has been permitted and the naming of Service Set Identifiers (SSIDs) has been standardised to enable easier discovery.

(d) Under the Amended BharatNet Programme, Government has made provision for 1.5 crore FTTH connections across the country, with priority to cover Government institutions, including schools, Primary Health Centres, Anganwadis and Panchayat offices. As on 30.6.2026, a total of 348 and 504 government institutions (including schools, Primary Health Centres, Anganwadis and Panchayat offices) in the districts of Katni and Panna respectively have been connected using BharatNet.

(e) Under the Amended BharatNet Programme, local entrepreneurs are engaged as BharatNet Udyami for provisioning and the operation and maintenance of FTTH connections, thereby promoting local participation and improving service reach with a suitable revenue-sharing mechanism to incentivise the local entrepreneur. Access to FTTH connections under the programme enables delivery of digital services such as online education, telemedicine and digital healthcare services, digital agriculture, e-governance and digital financial services in rural areas.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), 6.39 crore individuals were trained for digital literacy across the country. Further, the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology under MeitY provides short- and long-term skilling courses and has trained more than 43 lakh candidates.
