

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4109
ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2026**

SERVICE-READY UNDER BHARATNET PROJECT IN KARNATAKA

4109. DR. C N MANJUNATH:

WILL the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and number of Gram Panchayats made service-ready under the BharatNet Project in Karnataka including Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha Constituency and the details of works under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP);
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the utilisation of BharatNet connectivity including last-mile broadband access, in rural areas of Karnataka and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details and number of PM-WANI public Wi-Fi hotspots established and the status of 5G network rollout and Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) commissioned in Karnataka particularly in the rural and peri-urban areas of the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha Constituency, district-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken or proposed to strengthen last-mile connectivity, expand PM-WANI services, accelerate 5G coverage and bridge the digital divide in rural and semi-urban areas of Karnataka?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Government of India approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 04.08.2023 for the upgradation/creation of network in all 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country using ring topology, including 6,090 GPs in Karnataka. As on 30.06.2026, 344 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Karnataka have been upgraded. Under the ABP, Government has made provision for 1.5 crore Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) connections across the country including Karnataka, with priority to cover Government institutions, including schools, Primary Health Centres, Anganwadis and Panchayat offices.
- (c) As on 30.06.2026, the total number of Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) Public Data Offices (PDOs) in Karnataka is 21,843 including 6,911 Wi-Fi hotspots in the rural area. Further, 5G networks have been rolled out across all States/UTs in the country, including Karnataka. As on 30.06.2026, 35,388 nos of 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been made operational in Karnataka which includes 1,112 nos of 5G BTSs in Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha Constituency. District-wise details are at **Annexure**.

(d) The Department of Telecommunications issued policy interventions on 16.09.2024 to reduce costs and enhance the viability of Public Data Offices (PDOs) and Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) for expansion of PM-WANI PDOs, including in rural and remote areas. The measures include enabling PM-WANI through FTTH connections, aggregation of multiple access points, mobile data offloading, and promotional messaging with user consent. Further, home and business Wi-Fi access points have been enabled to join the PM-WANI network, along with inter-PDOA roaming for seamless user access.

The Government has undertaken various initiatives under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) to bridge the digital divide in rural and remote areas, including BharatNet for providing broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages and the 4G Saturation Scheme for providing mobile coverage in uncovered rural and remote areas across the country, including Karnataka. As on 30.06.2026, under the DBN funded schemes, 23,426 mobile towers have been made on air across the country including 2,821 towers in Karnataka. Further, 5G networks have been rolled out in all States/UTs, including Karnataka.

**Annexure referred to in the reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Untarred Question No. 4109,
to be answered on 12th August, 2026**

**Details of 5G BTSs and PM-WANI Public Data Offices (PDOs) in the Karnataka as on
30.06.2026**

SL NO.	District	5G BTS	PM-WANI Public Data Offices (PDOs)
1	Bagalkote	735	424
2	Ballari	713	294
3	Belagavi	2,078	908
4	Bengaluru Rural	1,030	1,166
5	Bengaluru Urban	11,763	10,535
6	Bidar	678	241
7	Chamarajanagara	357	197
8	Chikkaballapura	612	240
9	Chikkamagaluru	537	390
10	Chitradurga	576	500
11	Dakshina Kannada	1,505	811
12	Davangere	675	464
13	Dharwad	1,036	590
14	Gadag	364	235
15	Hassan	817	529
16	Haveri	505	190
17	Kalaburagi	942	495
18	Kodagu	274	182
19	Kolar	795	330
20	Koppal	532	134
21	Mandya	836	192
22	Mysuru	1,714	500
23	Raichur	711	298
24	Ramanagara	598	64
25	Shivamogga	787	536
26	Tumakuru	1,148	297
27	Udupi	747	297
28	Uttara Kannada	618	478
29	Vijayanagar	391	49
30	Vijayapura	942	215
31	Yadgir	372	62
Grand Total		35,388	21,843
