

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 619
ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2026**

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN REMOTE AND HILLY AREAS, KOLHAPUR

619. SHRI SHAHU SHAHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dedicated funding will be provided for 4G/5G Saturation Project and BharatNet implementation in backward blocks of Radhanagari and Gaganbawda in Kolhapur, facing unstable mobile connectivity in remote rural and hilly areas;
- (b) the current BSNL 4G tower installation status, PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots operational and optical fibre connectivity coverage block-wise;
- (c) whether Kolhapur proposes to be included in the next phase of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) for farmers' benefit; and
- (d) the details of the funding allocation, implementation timeline and digital literacy centres planned by 2027?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Scheme-wise, including 4G Saturation Project and BharatNet, dedicated funding is provided for telecom infrastructure connectivity in remote and hilly areas through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN).
- (b) As on 30.06.2026, 14 Government funded 4G mobile towers have been commissioned in Radhanagari and Gaganbawda blocks of Kolhapur. Further, 587 WiFi Hotspots in Kolhapur are operational. 122 kilometers and 31 kilometers of optical fibre cable have been laid in Radhanagari and Gaganbawda blocks respectively under BharatNet project.
- (c) Kolhapur has already been incorporated into the core modernization phases of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
- (d) The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated to reach digital literacy in 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide. The Scheme was implemented by CSC e- Governance Services India Limited through 4.39 Lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) spread across 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.
