

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1785
ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2025**

**MOBILE NETWORK COVERAGE/INTERNET PENETRATION IN RURAL AND HILLY
AREAS OF TAMIL NADU**

1785. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of mobile network coverage and internet penetration in rural and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether there are delays in setting up 4G/5G towers under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to improve telecom infrastructure in backward and tribal dominated regions of Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Out of 16,488 villages in the state of Tamil Nadu (as per data of Registrar General of India), 16,483 villages have mobile coverage and internet connectivity. Out of these, 16,431 villages have 4G mobile coverage, including in rural and hilly areas.

Mobile coverage for any uncovered inhabited villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on the techno-commercial viability. Government, through funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), is implementing various schemes for expansion of telecom connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country, including Tamil Nadu. As on June 2025, 256 towers have been commissioned in Tamil Nadu under DBN funded mobile schemes, providing 4G mobile coverage to 300 villages.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis. As of June 2025, 2,14,325 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country, including 10,298 GPs in Tamil Nadu.
