

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

BHARATNET PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

**†1931. SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR:
SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of villages in Maharashtra deprived of 4G and fibre connectivity so far under the BharatNet project along with the reasons for its delay;
- (b) the prescribed timeframe for achieving complete rural broadband connectivity in the country;
- (c) the progress made so far under BharatNet phase-III in Maharashtra particularly in the Washim-Yavatmal region;
- (d) whether special priority is being given to tribal and hilly areas under this project;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the current status of the BharatNet project in the country particularly in Maharashtra in Wasim-Yavatmal, Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (g) the reasons for slow implementing on the said project so far as the project was launched in the year, 2011; and
- (h) the names of districts where the implementation of the project is lagging far behind along with the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs)/ Villages with broadband in the country including Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, out of 27,689 Gram Panchayats (GPs) 24,575 GPs have been made service ready as on 31.12. 2025 under BharatNet. Out of 43,931 villages in the state of Maharashtra, 42,716 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity, as of December 2025. Challenges like Right of way issues, involvement of multiple agencies etc. have been faced under the implementation of BharatNet in the state. All these challenges are being addressed with planning and co-ordination with concerned agencies.

Amended BharatNet program (ABP) is proposed to be implemented in the country including Washim-Yavatmal region of Maharashtra. The timeline for completion of the construction phase under the ABP is three years from the date of signing of agreement. Further, ABP to provide connectivity to around 28,237 GPs and 15,799 Non- Gram Panchayat (GPs) villages on the demand basis for last mile connectivity including tribal and hilly areas in Maharashtra.

(f) to (h) A total of 2,14,904 Gram Panchayats have been made service-ready under the BharatNet Programme across the country till 31.12.2025, including 1,239 Gram Panchayats in the Washim–Yavatmal region of Maharashtra.

BharatNet project is widely dispersed across remotest corners of the country, covering difficult terrains (Hilly/Rocky) and also difficult to access Left-Wing extremism (LWE) affected areas. The implementation of BharatNet is impacted in Kolhapur, Nashik, Pune, Ratnagiri, Satara and Thane districts where the implementation of the project is impacted due to challenges like Right of way issues, permission required from multiple agencies, large scale damages to OFC laid due to development works etc.
