

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 971
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION 2.0

**971 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK:
SHRI IRANNA KADADI:
DR. KALPANA SAINI:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps being taken to provide broadband connectivity to 60 per cent of rural households by 2030;
- (b) the manner in which the National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0 would address the challenges in providing broadband connectivity in remote area and difficult terrains;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to ensure stable and reliable broadband speeds in rural areas where infrastructure is weak; and
- (d) the current status of mapping of fibre networks owned by Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and the manner in which it will contribute to the effective planning of additional BharatNet projects?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has taken the following key actions to improve broadband connectivity in rural areas:

- i. Launched the GatiShakti Sanchar Portal on 14th May 2022 thus streamlining Right of Way (RoW) permissions for quick Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower setup, reducing approval time.
- ii. The Telecommunications Act 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024, effective from 1st January 2025, introduced uniform RoW charges nationwide, expediting Telecom Infrastructure deployment.

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0, which will start from 1st April 2025, shall facilitate to tackle challenges of broadband connectivity in remote and difficult areas through several initiatives:

- i. Promoting satellite broadband for effective, competitive connectivity in rural and remote areas.

- ii. Coordinating with the Ministry of Power to use Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) from the power sector to enhance connectivity in hilly and remote regions.

Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural areas with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). Key initiatives include:

- i. The BharatNet project, provides broadband to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages. As of 13th January 2025, 2,14,323 GPs are service-ready.
- ii. Various schemes for high-speed internet and mobile services (including 4G) in remote areas, such as the Northeast, Islands, LWE-affected regions, Aspirational Districts, and border villages.
- iii. Submarine optical fibre cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar (2312 km) and Kochi and Lakshadweep (1869 km), enabling faster rollout of 4G/5G services.

Various telecom assets are mapped on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) National Master Plan (NMP) platform in addition to 1600+ layers of different Ministries/departments. The usage of PMGS NMP tools and other mapped telecom assets will aid in the **effective planning** of additional BharatNet projects.
