

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 156
ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2026**

PROJECTS SANCTIONED UNDER DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI IN TAMIL NADU

***156. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects sanctioned under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) in Tamil Nadu since its inception including the number of mobile towers approved, installed and made operational, district-wise including Arani Lok Sabha Constituency of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the total funds allocated, released and utilised under DBN for improving mobile and broadband connectivity in Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether any rural, remote and tribal habitations in Tamil Nadu continue to remain without reliable 4G mobile connectivity despite the implementation of DBN projects and if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional DBN-supported telecom infrastructure projects and if so, the details and present status of such proposals; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to accelerate the implementation of DBN projects in Tamil Nadu and the timeline for ensuring universal mobile connectivity in the State?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 156 FOR 29TH JULY, 2026 REGARDING “PROJECTS SANCTIONED UNDER DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI IN TAMIL NADU” ASKED BY SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S.

(a) & (b) 4G Saturation Scheme and the BharatNet Project, including the Amended BharatNet Programme, have been sanctioned for the State of Tamil Nadu from Digital Bharat Nidhi. Details of number of mobile towers planned and commissioned, district-wise of the State of Tamil Nadu are at **Annexure I**. ₹1,363.39 crore have been disbursed from Digital Bharat Nidhi for improving mobile and broadband connectivity in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five financial years. Financial year-wise details are as under:

Financial year	Fund disbursed (in crore ₹)
2021-22	74.21
2022-23	103.72
2023-24	573.40
2024-25	336.82
2025-26	275.23
Total	1,363.39

(c) As per data maintained by the Registrar General of India, there are 16,488 villages in the State of Tamil Nadu and 16,447 villages are having 4G connectivity. District-wise details are at **Annexure II**.

(d) The BharatNet Project has been approved for provision for broadband connectivity in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) under a design, built, operate and maintain model for upgrade of existing network created under Phases I and II of the BharatNet Project and to create incremental network for new GPs, and for non-GP villages on demand basis, its operation and maintenance and provision of 1.5 crore fibre-based internet connections. The Government of India has approved the proposal of the Government of Tamil Nadu for utilisation of BharatNet network under Amended BharatNet Programme in the State and has shared the agreement for the same with the State Government.

(e) As on 30.6.2026, 11,118 GPs had been connected in the State of Tamil Nadu under BharatNet Project. Further, the 4G Saturation Project has been approved for provision of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages located in remote and difficult areas of the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu. As on 30.6.2026, 257 mobile towers have been commissioned in the State of Tamil Nadu, covering 308 villages.

Annex referred to in the reply to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *156, to be answered on 29th July, 2026

District-wise details of mobile towers planned and commissioned under Digital Bharat Nidhi in the State of Tamil Nadu

S. No.	District	Towers planned	Towers commissioned	Villages planned	Villages covered
1	Chengalpattu	1	0	1	0
2	Coimbatore	9	2	20	4
3	Dharmapuri	14	11	22	19
4	Dindigul	39	12	43	13
5	Erode	15	9	15	9
6	Kallakurichi	34	32	35	33
7	Kancheepuram	15	0	15	0
8	Kanyakumari	17	17	17	17
9	Karur	2	2	2	2
10	Krishnagiri	20	8	22	10
11	Madurai	13	13	14	14
12	Namakkal	32	26	35	27
13	Salem	28	28	39	39
14	Sivaganga	5	5	5	5
15	Tenkasi	3	3	3	3
16	Thanjavur	2	2	2	2
17	The Nilgiris	7	4	46	21
18	Theni	4	3	4	3
19	Thiruvallur	23	19	23	19
20	Thoothukkudi	2	2	2	2
21	Tiruchirappalli	7	7	7	7
22	Tirunelveli	8	8	8	8
23	Tirupathur	8	3	13	7
24	Tiruppur	1	1	1	1
25	Tiruvannamalai	28	28	32	31
26	Vellore	12	11	12	11
27	Viluppuram	7	1	7	1
Total		356	257	445	308

Annex referred to in the reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *156, to be answered on 29th July, 2026

District-wise details of 4G connectivity in the State of Tamil Nadu

S. No.	District	Total number of villages (as per RGI data of 2019)	Number of villages with 4G connectivity
1	Ariyalur	214	214
2	Chengalpattu	601	601
3	Coimbatore	256	254
4	Cuddalore	843	843
5	Dharmapuri	487	478
6	Dindigul	370	370
7	Erode	306	306
8	Kallakurichi	582	577
9	Kancheepuram	436	436
10	Kanniyakumari	115	115
11	Karur	175	175
12	Krishnagiri	661	657
13	Madurai	592	591
14	Nagapattinam	494	494
15	Namakkal	427	427
16	Perambalur	159	159
17	Pudukkottai	756	756
18	Ramanathapuram	398	398
19	Ranipet	316	316
20	Salem	616	609
21	Sivaganga	539	538
22	Tenkasi	229	228
23	Thanjavur	810	810
24	The Nilgiris	41	41
25	Theni	101	99
26	Thiruvallur	716	716
27	Thiruvarur	546	546
28	Thoothukkudi	450	450
29	Tiruchirappalli	469	468
30	Tirunelveli	284	284
31	Tirupathur	226	225
32	Tiruppur	309	308
33	Tiruvannamalai	1110	1107
34	Vellore	340	338
35	Viluppuram	921	920
36	Virudhunagar	593	593
Total		16,488	16,447
