

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *197
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2025

VILLAGES COVERED UNDER DIGITAL VILLAGE PROGRAMME

***197. SHRI SELVAM G:
SHRI NAVASKANI K:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: -

- (a) the number of villages covered under the Digital Village Programme till date in the country, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the key facilities and services being provided under the said programme;
- (c) the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) established under this initiative;
- (d) the status of internet connectivity in villages under this programme;
- (e) whether there are plans to enhance the speed and coverage of internet services in these villages and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether issues like lack of digital literacy, infrastructure or electricity supply have impacted the programme's effectiveness and if so, the measures taken by the Government to overcome these challenges;
- (g) whether the Digital Village Programme has provisions to promote digital inclusion for marginalized communities including women and Scheduled Castes/Tribes; and
- (h) the specific steps taken to enhance digital literacy and entrepreneurship among rural women?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *197 FOR 12.03.2025 REGARDING “VILLAGE COVERED UNDER DIGITAL VILLAGE PROGRAMME”

(a) and (b): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved ‘Digital Village Pilot Project’ on 31.10.2018, to provide education services, health services, skill development services, solar powered street lights and financial inclusion services along with government-to-citizen services and business-to-citizen services in **700 villages** (one village from each district of States and Union Territories (UTs)) across the country. The project has been successfully closed w.e.f 31st March, 2024. A total number of **32 villages** covered in Tamil Nadu under the project.

State-wise details of the number of villages covered under the project across the country is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. The project has been successfully completed & closed and the key services are follows:

- i. Education Services: Courses provided under this project- Basic Computer Course (BCC), Course on Computer Concept (CCC), Tally- Kaushal Praman Patra, Basic Course in Information Technology (BCIT).
- ii. Additional Education: Competitive exam training, fundamental of CAD (Computer Aided Design)
- iii. Health Services: Tele-health and Tele-Veterinary consultation
- iv. Financial inclusion awareness programme
- v. Solar street lights
- vi. Skill development in (a) Automotive technician, (b) Handset repair, (c) Field technician – Home appliance, (d) Electrical technician

(c): There was no provision to establish Common Services Centres (CSCs) under the Digital Village Pilot Project.

(d): Provisioning of internet connectivity in the village was not envisaged under the Digital Village Pilot Project. The project has been implemented utilizing functional CSCs, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited apprised that internet connectivity is available at the CSC centre in 700 villages, covered under the Digital Village project.

(e): Department of Telecommunications, through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is implementing projects for providing 4G mobile services in 36, 536 uncovered villages/locations with a purpose to saturate 4G connectivity in all villages across the country. Till February 2025, 21, 577 villages/ locations have been covered.

Department of Telecommunications, through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is implementing schemes to, (i) saturate all uncovered villages with 4G Coverage; and (ii) provide broadband connectivity in all villages under Amended BharatNet program. The 4G services offer Broadband speeds that support various applications including video streaming. Under the Amended BharatNet program, BSNL shall provide sufficient bandwidth to ensure at least 25 Mbps speed to every rural home connection.

On 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) under Design, Built, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) model, for up-gradation of existing network of Bharat Net Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of network in balance 42,000 GPs (approx.) including Operation and Maintenance for 10 years.

(f): The project utilized already existing infrastructure such as internet connectivity (BharatNet and other available connectivity) and functional/operational CSCs for its implementation. Moreover, the initiative of Digital Village Project expanded digital literacy by way of training on digital courses, financial inclusion awareness programme and improved sustainable infrastructure through provision of 8 solar lights per villages.

(g) and (h): The Digital Village Pilot Project is not specific to any community/gender/segment of society. However, promoting digital inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship for all rural residents are objectives of this project, as mentioned in reply of para (a) & (b). The project offered education services (Courses-Basic Computer Course, Course on Computer Concept, Tally- Kaushal Praman Patra, Basic Course in Information Technology), competitive exam training, fundamental CAD (Computer Aided Design), health services (tele-health consultation and tele-veterinary consultation), financial inclusion awareness programme, and skill development in (a) Automotive technician, (b) Handset repair, (c) Field technician – Home appliance, (d) Electrical technician.

State/UT-wise number of villages covered under the Digital Village Pilot Project

S. No.	State/UT	Number of Villages
1	Andaman Nicobar	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	21
4	Assam	33
5	Bihar	38
6	Chhattisgarh	27
7	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1
8	Daman & Diu	2
9	Goa	2
10	Gujarat	33
11	Haryana	22
12	Himachal Pradesh	12
13	Jammu & Kashmir	20
14	Jharkhand	24
15	Karnataka	30
16	Kerala	14
17	Ladakh	2
18	Lakshadweep	1
19	Madhya Pradesh	51
20	Maharashtra	34
21	Manipur	16
22	Meghalaya	11
23	Mizoram	8
24	Nagaland	11
25	Odisha	30
26	Puducherry	4
27	Punjab	22
28	Rajasthan	33
29	Sikkim	4
30	Tamilnadu	32
31	Telangana	30
32	Tripura	8
33	Uttar Pradesh	75
34	Uttarakhand	13
35	West Bengal	22
Total		700
