

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in telecom services sector is already 100% since August, 2013. While FDI is 100% under automatic route in telecom manufacturing, FDI upto 49% is permitted through automatic route and beyond 49% through Government route in telecom services.

(b) to (e) Question Does not arise in view of the above.

4G services by BSNL

2935. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision on the demand for spectrum by BSNL to launch 4G services; and

(b) whether the Centre is aware that the delay in launching 4G services will hamper the growth prospects of BSNL and give undue advantage to private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) To improve its customer base and to compete with private Telecom Service Providers, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has initiated process for introduction of 4G services and has requested for allocation of one 5 MHz slot in 700 MHz Band for pan-India (excluding Delhi and Mumbai) through equity fusion route or an allocation for 5 MHz slot in 2100 MHz band temporarily for one year on payment. The request of BSNL is under process.

Internet connections to Gram Panchayats

2936. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been able to lay optical cable network to 1 lakh Gram Panchayats in the first phase;

(b) whether in spite of that, the Ministry is able to provide internet connection to only 22,000 Gram Panchayats;

(c) whether the target fixed was March, 2015, and even after more than two years, the Ministry has not been able to achieve its target, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the status of providing internet to Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under BharatNet project 27,838 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been provided with Broadband connectivity in the country as on 06.08.2017.

(c) The erstwhile National Optical Fibre Network (now BharatNet) was initially approved by the Government on 25.10.2011. As per original schedule, all GPs were to be connected within a time frame of two years.

The following have affected the implementation of the project:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project due to field survey of GPs to assess the cable route and length, and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Implementation of the project only through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- (iii) Connectivity to GPs only by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
- (iv) Poor quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to connect GPs in some places.
- (v) Centralised procedure of procurement and sourcing of equipment through Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- (vi) Default by the L1 supplier of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) equipment.
- (vii) Challenges faced in awarding contracts because of various reasons *viz.* difficult areas (Hilly/Rocky/Left Wing Extremism), limited number of trenching and laying contractors, Schedule of Rates (SoR) of BSNL, high rates quoted by contractors.

(d) The status of BharatNetas on 27.07.2017 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana District-wise is given in the Statement.

Statement

*District-wise status of BharatNet in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
as on 27.07.2017*

Sl. No.	State/UT	District Name	Total number of GPs	Total number of GPs in Phase-I	Total number of GPs in Phase-II	GPs Lit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chittor	1211	1211	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizag	894	462	432	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur	991	0	991	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	1008	0	1008	0
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	1011	0	1011	0
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	878	0	878	0
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam	1026	0	1026	0
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam	1100	0	1100	0
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	943	0	943	0
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	1023	0	1023	0
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah	786	0	786	0
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	974	0	974	0
13.	Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	882	0	882	0
14.	Telangana	Khammam	668	621	47	57
15.	Telangana	Nizamabad	716	716	0	150
16.	Telangana	Rangareddy	705	680	25	92
17.	Telangana	Medak	1049	0	1049	0
18.	Telangana	Karimnagar	1206	0	1206	0
19.	Telangana	Mehboobnagar	1327	0	1327	0
20.	Telangana	Nalgonda	1176	0	1176	0
21.	Telangana	Warangal	962	0	962	0
22.	Telangana	Adilabad	866	0	866	0

Internet connectivity in villages of Madhya Pradesh

†2937. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the ongoing Digital India Campaign in the country, many villages do not have internet services and in many, the internet speed is extremely slow, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the State-wise and District-wise details of villages in the country, especially in Madhya Pradesh, that are without internet connectivity; and

(c) by when there is likelihood of high speed internet connectivity reaching every village of the country and the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the slow speed of internet in the villages?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.