

Implementation of BharatNet Project

2945. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the BharatNet is behind schedule, if so, the Panchayat-wise details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of connected Panchayats at present, State/UT-wise;

(c) the timeline of Government for this project; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and utilized till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 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. Government has approved revised implementation strategy of BharatNet on 19.7.2017 where all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) are targeted to be connected by March, 2019 under BharatNet Project.

The project has been delayed because of following reasons:

- (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.
- (v) Centralised 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 contractors because of various reasons viz. difficult areas (Hilly/Rocky/Left Wing Extremism), limited no of Trenching and laying contractors, Schedule of Rates (SoR) of BSNL, High rates quoted by contractors.

The State-wise status of BharatNet, as on 06.08.2017 is given in the Statement (See below).

(d) The status of funds Allocated/Utilized is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allotted and utilized
1.	2012-13	405.00
2.	2013-14	514.00
3.	2014-15	1351.87
4.	2015-16	2415.10
5.	2016-17	5600.00
TOTAL		10285.97

Statement

State-wise status of BharatNet as on 06.08.2017

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Cable laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs Lit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	1533	3827	4162	1424	1348	396
2.	Bihar	5754	12377	12944	5001	4742	1020
3.	Chhattisgarh	4104	10330	7915	3335	3164	1434
4.	Haryana	6020	9820	11005	5947	5803	1443
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	388	441	398	218	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	12025	12557	6034	6031	4921
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	36014	31137	12185	11646	4172
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26787	25220	12784	11857	2406
10.	Punjab	8049	9965	9176	7107	6750	1194
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21350	20764	7185	7077	2085
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	49074	45643	25561	23449	3464
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2828	2663	1510	1463	570
14.	West Bengal	2637	5320	4906	1840	1794	328

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	1	0	1	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	690	612	228	0
18.	Nagaland	994	2635	1530	833	473	0
19.	Manipur	904	334	244	154	125	26
20.	Mizoram	763	750	471	125	76	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1694	1590	836	812	117
22.	Meghalaya	1208	1216	535	437	195	2
23.	Gujarat	6905	10816	9848	5164	4583	1342
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2683	766	571	283	0
26.	Telangana	2017	4539	4462	2038	2038	369
27.	Odisha	3860	8208	7970	3109	3108	569
28.	Jharkhand	2713	5152	4718	1935	1796	652
29.	Himachal Pradesh	252	526	493	166	163	86
30.	Daman and Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL		124990	241090	222748	107351	100443	27838

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre

Review of Interconnection Usage Charges by TRAI

2946. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is reviewing the reduction of Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC), which is at present advantageous to a few top telecom operators;