

Internet connectivity in panchayats

†3664. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided Internet facility in the panchayats to extend the benefits of communication and information technology to the people living in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds released and utilised in this respect during the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the total number of people who were benefited through the facility during the said period, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As on 11.07.2019, by laying 3,48,161 km. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 1,31,756 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected, out of which 1,20,791 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready. In addition, 882 GPs have been made Service Ready on satellite media.

As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is being provided at all the GPs in the country. The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has approved to award the work of provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) in about 10,000 GPs of Rajasthan for implementation through Government of Rajasthan and in the remaining GPs of BharatNet Phase-I through CSC e-Governance Services India Limited. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 43,558 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 14,770 GPs, catering to about 12.4 lakh users. Further, 31531 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided.

Further, the following initiatives have been taken for providing broadband/internet facility in the GPs:

- (i) **Setting up of Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats using BharatNet infrastructure** : Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up in 5,000 GPs by CSC

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e-Governance Services India Limited. As of now, Wi-Fi Choupals have been setup/installed at all the 5000 GPs and services are being provided in 3145 GPs.

- (ii) **Wi-Fi hotspots at 200 Gram Panchayats by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) using BharatNet backhaul** : BSNL pilot is to provide last mile connectivity for broadband services through Wi-Fi in 200 Gram Panchayats (GPs). Wi-Fi hotspots have been set up/installed at 75 GPs.

(c) ₹ 19512.5 crore has been disbursed by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) for BharatNet project. The State-wise details of utilisation/expenditure are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

For other schemes, the details of funds disbursed/utilized are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

- (d) The State/Union Territory-wise details are given in Statement-III.

Statement

Details of State-wise expenditure under BharatNet project

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Year 16-17 (in INR)	Year 17-18 (in INR)	Year 18-19 (in INR)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18464332	1600000	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	847980000	1812083295
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	176787282.9	139671853	5967951
4.	Assam	891768154	30088614	41069932
5.	Bihar	1900995444	225376634	483712053
6.	Chhattisgarh	2412033156	2368208766	2395577291
7.	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	1297999723	2304089756	3110068187

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	906575955	1346574610	94664743
9.	Himachal Pradesh	525127700	13045540	6356752
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	423750351	36357422	137758733
11.	Jharkhand	813945657	481310822	1121262052
12.	Karnataka	12490077	2246872986	238419660
13.	Kerala	259560814	0	0
14.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4519556872	1902222230	1536060473
16.	Maharashtra	5851859025	4235640248	3701109151
17.	Manipur	185186215.2	146307480	31312662
18.	Meghalaya	247461225.6	195508225	20819377
19.	Mizoram	132129545.2	123487397	16933556
20.	Nagaland	203622895.9	160873490	137020415
21.	Odisha	1158064960	468995146	778596908
22.	Puducherry	22342903	5316342	0
23.	Punjab	2362941194	0	526383240
24.	Rajasthan	1624698933	1082712706	1224720159
25.	Sikkim	432268500	5780972	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	0	1106410000	0
27.	Telangana	82389383	1122780000	74344690
28.	Tripura	209153900.2	165243293	36899351
29.	Uttar Pradesh	6353029478	777627666	2436499542
30.	Uttarakhand	1274448954	30802089	28550190

1	2	3	4	5
31.	West Bengal	1416285784	910420748	114694430
	TOTAL	35714938415	22481305036	20110884793
	*GPON and OFC	5554481492	2584191463	
	**Advance given to BSNL for Phase- II		23020000000	8630000000
	GRAND TOTAL	41269419907	48085496499	28740884793

*The Payment has been made to 3 CPSUs for decentralized procurements. State-wise data is not available as the payment has been released on lumpsum basis. The State-wise reconciliation is being done.

** BSNL has been given work for 7 States namely Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The payment has been released on lumpsum basis. Hence, data is not available State-wise.

Note: Funds have been disbursed to three CPSUs namely BSNL, PGCIL and RailTel for Phase-I and to CPSUs and State Governments for Phase-II implementation of BharatNet Project. Reconciliation of Data regarding Utilization of funds by CPSUs/State Governments is underway.

Statement-II

Details of funds disbursed/utilized for other Wi-Fi schemes of USOF

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Disbursed (₹ in crore)
1.	Bihar	6.42
2.	Chhattisgarh	8.16
3.	Chandigarh	0.25
4.	Haryana	1.27
5.	Jharkhand	7.37
6.	Karnataka	2.48
7.	Maharashtra	3.09
8.	Madhya Pradesh	27.34
9.	Odisha	1.87
10.	Puducherry	1.68
11.	Uttar Pradesh	39.41
12.	Uttarakhand	7.33
	TOTAL	106.67

Statement-III*Details of total number of Wi-Fi and FTTH subscribers*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of active subscribers	
		Wi-Fi	FTTH
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	70
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4.	Assam	0	955
5.	Bihar	18019	1111
6.	Chandigarh	36	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	33846	1085
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0
10.	Gujarat	0	1039
11.	Haryana	63681	531
12.	Himachal Pradesh	293	21
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	7
14.	Jharkhand	32398	940
15.	Karnataka	87478	5140
16.	Kerala	53164	1640
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	99404	3965
19.	Maharashtra	103742	4191
20.	Manipur	13	0
21.	Meghalaya	0	0

1	2	3	4
22.	Mizoram	0	0
23.	Nagaland	0	0
24.	Odisha	7986	284
25.	Puducherry	6954	52
26.	Punjab	0	210
27.	Rajasthan	15000	1838
28.	Sikkim	0	0
29.	Telangana	0	305
30.	Tripura	0	12
31.	Uttar Pradesh	660112	6704
32.	Uttarakhand	64008	1048
33.	West Bengal	0	383
TOTAL		1246134	31531

Validity of 2G license

†3665. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the validity of license for 2G services of the public sector telecom company BSNL is getting expired;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to extend the validity of license;
- (c) if not, whether Government would clarify the apprehensions of 1.76 lakh BSNL employees with regard to the status of the license and convince them; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in 4G and 5G services of BSNL and by when it would get clearance for those services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
 (a) BSNL is presently providing mobile services through Cellular Mobile Telephone

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