

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Status of BharatNet project**

1140. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the implementation of the BharatNet project, a rural internet connectivity programme that aims to provide high speed internet services to all Gram Panchayats in the country;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats connected and operational with high speed internet services so far and status of the remaining Gram Panchayats;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats covered under the project in Karnataka and the status of the project in the State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (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 07.11.2019, by laying 3,80,988 km. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a Total of 1,40,668 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected, out of which 1,27,393 GPs have been made Service Ready. In addition, 983 GPs have been provided connectivity through satellite media.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is to be provided at all the 2.5 lakh GPs in the country. Towards this end, provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) is under implementation in each of the GPs of BharatNet Phase-I. As of now, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 GPs, out of which services are being provided in 16,151 GPs. Further, 33,017 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have also been provided.

(c) and (d) BharatNet is being implemented through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Karnataka, which has a Total of 6,268 GPs, including Block Headquarters (BHQs).

As on 07.11.2019, by laying 14,080 km. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a Total of 6,243 GPs (including BHQ) have been connected, out of which 6,235 GPs (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready.

### **Mobile connectivity in Odisha**

1141. SHRI AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in Odisha not covered by mobile services connectivity in the year 2019 as per the latest available data;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to introduce mobile services in these areas and the details thereof; and
- (c) the status of Wifi Access Points (APs) for 3811 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State under BharatNet and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) As per the data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that there are 6549 inhabited villages (as per census 2011 data) in Odisha, which are not covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in such villages is being provided by the Government and the TSPs in a phased manner. Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-II project, the Government has approved installation of 158 towers for providing mobile connectivity in Odisha.

- (c) As on 07.11.2019, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 114 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State of Odisha under BharatNet Project and out of them, services are being provided in 107 GPs.

### **Funds infusion in BSNL and MTNL**

1142. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps are being taken for funds infusion in both BSNL and MTNL under the revival plan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?