

- (iv) USOF scheme for mobile connectivity in 304 uncovered villages in border areas and other priority areas including 70 villages in Gujarat.

Digital connectivity of Gram Panchayats

1138. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce digital connectivity to all Gram Panchayats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of fund released and utilised for the same, State/UT-wise details and district-wise details of Haryana;
- (d) whether Government will partner with any private telecom firm to facilitate the implementation of this programme; and
- (e) if so, 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. The project is under implementation and the infrastructure being created is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory manner for provision of Services. The project envisages providing affordable broadband services in rural and remote areas towards realisation of the vision of 'Digital India'.

The target of completing 1,00,000 GPs under Phase-I of BharatNet was achieved in December, 2017. The work of connecting the remaining GPs of BharatNet is under progress. 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.

- (c) A lump sum of ₹ 20,889 crore has been allocated and disbursed from Universal Service Obligation Fund to Bharat Broadband Network Limited for execution of BharatNet project. The details of State/UT-wise fund disbursement/utilisation are given in Statement-I (*See below*). Funds for the project are released to the State/Union Territory as a whole and not District-wise.

(d) and (e) A Committee under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, suggested an approach, across the BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II areas of implementation, which includes to assign the work of creating, maintaining and utilizing the network to a single entity in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model through Private Sector Partners (PSPs). The recommendations of the above report have been approved by Digital Communications Commission on 13.06.2019 and are being taken to the Union Cabinet for information.

Statement

Details of funds disbursed/utilised under BharatNet

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Disbursement/ Utilisation (In cr.)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15.22
2.	Assam	155.1
3.	Bihar	573.62
4.	Chhattisgarh	939.22
5.	Haryana	409.65
6.	Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh	72.27
7.	Karnataka	618.01
8.	Kerala	66
9.	Maharashtra	1976.12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1506.53
11.	Punjab	575.38
12.	Rajasthan	774.8
13.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	961.94
14.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	599.26
15.	Uttarakhand	200.72
16.	West Bengal	365.33
17.	Sikkim	51.78
18.	Puducherry	4.96

1	2	3
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.73
20.	Manipur	46
21.	Meghalaya	67.23
22.	Mizoram	34.35
23.	Nagaland	74.1
24.	Tripura	70.76
25.	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	1631.52
26.	Lakshadweep	0.1
27.	Telangana	310.73
28.	Odisha	479.86
29.	Jharkhand	349
30.	Himachal Pradesh	80.25
31.	Andhra Pradesh	530.33
32.	Tamil Nadu	121.45
33.	Chandigarh	0.01
	GPON(Gigabit Passive Optical Network) and OFC (Optical Fibre Cable)	813.87
	Advance given to BSNL for Phase II	3165
	TOTAL	17686.2

Telecom towers installed in rural areas

1139. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the Total number of telecom towers which have been installed in rural areas of the country, State-wise/Union Territory-wise and telecom company-wise details of the last two years and in current year thereof; and

(b) the number of targeted towers for installation in rural areas in the next financial year, the State-wise details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.