

(b) The total cost of the BharatNet project, approved by the Cabinet on 19.07.2017, is ₹ 42,068 crore (exclusive of GST, octroi and local taxes), out of which ₹ 36,022 crore is for Capex and ₹ 6046 crore is for Opex. As on 01st September 2020, ₹ 22,267 crore has been disbursed towards Capex and ₹ 2,206 crore toward Opex by BBNL.

Protection of digital rights of users

500. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to monitor and put surveillance in all calls from landline and mobile services;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind breach of the freedom of digital rights of users;
- (c) whether such surveillances will protect the users from spyware and or third party hackers; and
- (d) if so, commitment of Government to protect the rights of users therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) No Sir. The Government has no proposal to monitor and put surveillance on all calls from landline and mobile services.

- (b) It does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) It does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (d) It does not arise in view of (a) above.

Broadband connectivity under 'BharatNet' scheme

†501. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 2,55,000 Gram Panchayats were proposed to be provided with broadband connectivity under 'BharatNet' scheme, if so, the reason for pendency of the work for providing 1,10,000 Gram Panchayats with satellite telecommunication facility as on 31st March, 2020;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) number of panchayats covered with net connectivity as on 1 st September, 2020 out of those panchayats connected under BharatNet; and

(c) the details of investment plan under BharatNet project along with amount invested as on 1st September, 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) 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. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is executing the project. As on 31.03.2020, a total of 1,38,409 GPs have been made Service Ready, out of which 2148 GPs were on Satellite Media.

BharatNet is a project of mega nature and the GPs are widely dispersed across the country in rural and remote areas. All out efforts are being made to expeditiously implement the project. The delay in the implementation of the project is mainly on account of:—

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of the project as the work on the project began in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) In Phase-I, only one media (*i.e.* is underground Optical Fibre Cable) has been used to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues have delayed the implementation.
- (iii) Under Phase-II, about 65,000 GPs in 8 States are under implementation under State-led model, and delay in their implementation is also adversely affecting the completion of the Project.

(b) As on 01.09.2020, a total of 1,43,885 GPs have been made Service Ready. Further, Wi-Fi Hot-Spots have been installed in 69,615 GPs and 2,43,545 FTTH connections have been provided.

(c) The total cost of BharatNet, approved by the cabinet on 19.07.2017, is ₹ 42,068 crore (exclusive of GST, Octroi and local taxes, and as on 01 September 2020, ₹ 24,473 crore has been disbursed by BBNL.