

Connectivity of GPs under BharatNet in Nellore district

1289. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single Gram Panchayat (GP) has been connected under BharatNet in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when nearly 1,000 GPs in Nellore are going to be connected under BharatNet?

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 create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2.5 lakh) with broadband in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Phase-I of the Project has been implemented through Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), but Nellore District is not part of this Phase. The Phase-II of the BharatNet Project to connect all the remaining GPs in the State, including in Nellore District, is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh under State-led model through the State Government. In Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh, no Gram Panchayat (GP) has been connected so far under BharatNet project.

(c) The BharatNet phase-II project was envisaged to be completed by August 2021 in the country, including in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh. However, this time will now be extended as the pace of completion is affected by lockdown and restrictions on movement imposed by the various Governments due to COVID-19. Further, in Andhra Pradesh, the work was suspended by the State Government due to their suggestion of change in methodology from aerial to underground fibre.

Allocation of funds to Kerala under the National Broadband Mission

1290. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated / disbursed so far to the State of Kerala under the National Broadband Mission (NBM);

(b) the progress of the mission at the national level so far; and

(c) the time by when all the villages of the country will be provided with broadband access under the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) The investment envisaged under the National Broadband Mission (NBM), which was launched on 17.12.2019, is around Rs 7 Lakh crore which is to be catalysed largely by the industry out of which contribution by the Government through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is envisaged to be around 10%, that is, approximately ₹ 70,000 crore which will cover all the States in the country including the State of Kerala.

(b) Under National Broadband Mission (NBM)-

- (i) A Governing Council for Broadband has been formed under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Communications to oversee the mission.
- (ii) A Broadband Steering Committee has also been formed under the chairmanship of Secretary (Telecom) to facilitate implementation of mission activities.
- (iii) State Broadband Committee has been formed by 33 States/Union Territories for effective implementation of the mission and proliferation of broadband.

(c) The mission targets to provide broadband access to all villages of the country by 2022.

Revision of tariff structure

1291. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose revisions to tariff structure for a sustainable growth model for the telecom sector and will it be fast tracked to mitigate the effects of the Adjusted Gross Revenue issue that has impacted telecom operators and also slowed the 5G implementation process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status thereof?