

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