

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2021**

OPTICAL FIBRE LAID UNDER THE NOFN PROJECT

1128 SHRI SYED ZAFAR ISLAM:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of optical fibre laid so far under the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project and the time frame to achieve the remaining targets;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats connected with broadband and WiFi hotspots so far under the said project in Uttar Pradesh, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh yet to be connected under the said project, the details thereof, district-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) BharatNet project, earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity at all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2, 50,000) in the country. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for execution of the project. The implementation of the Phase-I of the BharatNet project has been done over Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL). The Cabinet on July 19, 2017 approved a modified strategy for implementation of the BharatNet project. Accordingly, the implementation of Phase-II is being done through State-led Model, Private Sector Model and CPSU-led Model by using an Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite).

As on 01.02.2021, under BharatNet project (Phase-I & II), by laying 4,94,879 km OFC, a total number of 1,49,026 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready. Further 3,330 GPs have been made Service Ready on satellite media. Thus, a total number of 1,52,356 villages (i.e. Gram Panchayats including BHQs) have been made Service Ready in the country.

The BharatNet project was envisaged to be completed by August 2021. 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.

(b) In Uttar Pradesh, as on 01.02.2021, under BharatNet project (Phase-I & II), by laying 84,324 km OFC, a total number of 31,032 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready. Further, 33 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready on Satellite media. Thus, a total number of 31,065 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready in Uttar Pradesh. Furthermore, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 26,897 GPs and 1,03,492 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided.

(c) The District-wise details of the Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) of Uttar Pradesh, yet to be connected under the said project, are given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1128 for answer on 11.02.2021

District-wise, status of Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Uttar Pradesh yet to be connected under BharatNet

S. No.	District	GPs (including BHQs), yet to be connected
1	Agra	315
2	Aligarh	407
3	Ambedkar Nagar	168
4	Amethi	559
5	Azamgarh	1205
6	Badaun	394
7	Bahraich	678
8	Ballia	489
9	Balrampur	630
10	Barabanki	312
11	Bareilly	392
12	Basti	512
13	Bijnor	211
14	Bulandshehar	13
15	Chandauli	429
16	Chitrakoot	31
17	Deoria	571
18	Etah	280
19	Etawa	293
20	Faizabad	297
21	Farrukhabad	142
22	Fatehpur	453
23	Ghaziabad	2
24	Gonda	805
25	Gorakhpur	745
26	Hardoi	703
27	Jalaun	1
28	Jaunpur	958
29	Jhansi	330
30	Kannauj	421
31	Kanpur Dehat	413
32	Kanpur Nagar	238
33	Kaushambi	208
34	Kheri	479
35	Kushi Nagar	1023
36	Lalitpur	231
37	Mahrajganj	727

S. No.	District	GPs (including BHQs), yet to be connected
38	Mainpuri	326
39	Mathura	24
40	Meerut	276
41	Mirzapur	513
42	Moradabad	589
43	Muzffarnagar	191
44	Pilibhit	294
45	Pratapgarh	527
46	Prayagraj	971
47	Raebareli	212
48	Rampur	118
49	Saharanpur	322
50	Sant Kabeer Nagar	437
51	Sant Ravidas Nagar	5
52	Shahjahanpur	412
53	Shravasti	238
54	Siddharth NAGAR	885
55	Sitapur	945
56	Sonebhadra	584
57	Sultanpur	442
58	Unnao	485
	Total	24861
