

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2565
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2021**

FUNDS FOR COMPLETION OF BHARAT NET-II PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

2565 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested additional fund for the completion of Bharat Net-II (Maha Net-I) project ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Central Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay and by when the required fund to the State Government of Maharashtra will be granted?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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, including Maharashtra. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) under Department of Telecommunications is the “Executing Agency” for the project.

In Maharashtra, the Phase-II is being implemented by the State Government. The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for revised architecture in October, 2018 for a CAPEX amount of Rs. 3,789 crore. The proposal was examined and as the Cabinet approval is for linear architecture and GPON technology, the Telecom Commission (now known as Digital Communications Commission) in its meeting held on 17.10.2018, approved revised CAPEX of Rs. 2,980.65 crore. The additional cost towards enhanced network architecture and technology, beyond Rs. 2,980.65 crore, is to be borne by the State Government of Maharashtra.

As per the milestones achieved for completion of the project work, Rs. 1,677.37 crore has been released by BBNL for implementation of BharatNet Phase-II in Maharashtra as on 01.03.2021. In addition, Rs. 3.6 crore was initially released for survey. As such, no release of funds is pending.
