

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2021**

**USAGE OF WI-FI TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH BHARAT NET
PROJECT**

2575 SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Wi-Fi technology is used to provide the services in rural areas under Bharat Net Project;
- (b) if so, the plan for development of Wi-Fi technology in Rural areas in the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether phase-I Bharat Net Project will cover 3870 Gram Panchayats (GPs) belonging to 181 blocks of 18 districts, whether Government intends to implement broadband facilities in rural areas, even though it's utilization is very low; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the initiatives taken by Government to overcome it, and the reaction of Government thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) 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 Odisha.

Further, as part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access internet/broadband services, is to be provided at all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Odisha.

In Phase-I of BharatNet project, about 3,810 GPs have been taken up for implementation in the rural areas of Odisha, out of which about 3,772 GPs have been made Service Ready, as on 08.03.2021. To utilise the network, the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services and Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections to 5 Government Institutions in each GP of Odisha have been assigned to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology).

As on 08.03.2021, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 2,514 GPs, catering to 19,413 subscribers with data consumption of 60,042 GB. Further, 20,981 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections on BharatNet have been provided.
