GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 336
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021

DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARAT NET PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU

336 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is delay in implementation of Bharat Net Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in the implementation of project and action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had cancelled ₹1950 crores of Bharat Net project in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the reasons for cancellation and whether any irregularities have been found in the bidding of the project; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve this project including the investigations in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Tamil Nadu State Government signed the MoU with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Broadband Network Ltd.(BBNL) on 31.03.2017 for implementation of BharatNet project. As the MoU was signed very late, the Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Tamil Nadu could not be taken up in BharatNet Phase-I. Therefore, all the Gram Panchayats of Tamil Nadu State are being implemented by the State Government under BharatNet Phase-II of the Project. As the State Government has not finalized the Tender for implementation of the Project so far, the actual implementation of the work is yet to start.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has not cancelled the implementation of the of BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu. Some complaints about restrictive and discriminatory clauses in the tender floated in December 2019 by TANFINET, the State Implementing Agency (SIA) for the implementation of BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu, were received. It was considered after deliberations in the "Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, that the bidding conditions, incorporated by TANFINET in the bidding documents, were restrictive and discriminatory in nature. Accordingly, Tamil Nadu Government was asked to re-invite the bids with non-restrictive qualification criteria.

The RFP/tender has been re-floated in October 2020 by TANFINET for implementation of the project. Further, for expediting the implementation of the BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu, BBNL has been holding meetings with the State Government/TANFINET.

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