

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 334  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2021**

**BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN GRAM PANCHAYATS**

334 Shri Sanjay Seth:  
Shri K.C. Venugopal:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing a project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats in the country with broadband facility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far in this regard;
- (c) whether Central Public Sector Undertakings have implemented Phase I of the BharatNet and if so, whether the Phase I project has been completed;
- (d) the State/UT-wise details of the Service Ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project in the country; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to provide broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats in a time bound manner?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) with broadband in the country. The Phase-I (Revised workfront) of the BharatNet has been implemented through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel Corporation of India Limited and the execution of this Phase is almost complete. As on 09.07.2021, out of the targeted 1,20,392 GPs of this phase, a total of 1,18,649 GPs have been made Service Ready.

BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented through State-led Model, Private Sector Model and Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) led Model by using an optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite).

As announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the scope of BharatNet has been expanded to connect about 6 lakh inhabited villages on optical fiber across the country. On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country. BharatNet is now being extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the said States. The estimated maximum viability gap funding approved for the above PPP model is Rs. 19,041 crores and the

targeted date for completion of the project is August, 2023. The Cabinet has also accorded in-principle approval for extending broadband to all inhabited villages of the remaining States and Union Territories (UTs).

As on 09.07.2021, a total number of 1,57,919 Gram Panchayats have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet.

(d) The State/UT-wise details of the Service Ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project in the country are given in **Annexure-I**.

(e) As part of the BharatNet project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. In about 1.23 lakh GPs of BharatNet Phase-I (out of which about 3,000 GPs have been transferred to PPP model of implementation), the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services in about 1.10 lakh GPs has been assigned to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), and in about 10,000 GPs to Government of Rajasthan/Raj COMP Info Services Ltd. (RISL), etc.

Out of around 1.10 lakh GPs assigned to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC-SPV) for providing Wi-Fi services across India, it is also providing FTTH connections to 5 Government Institutions in 77,000 (approx.) GPs.

As on 09.07.2021, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 1,04,310 GPs and 5,10,730 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided through BharatNet.

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 334 for answer on 22.07.2021

**State/UT-wise details of the Service Ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project (as on 09.07.2021):**

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Service Ready GPs
1	Andhra Pradesh	1703
2	Arunachal Pradesh	721
3	Andaman & Nicobar	21
4	Assam	1497
5	Bihar	8295
6	Chandigarh	12
7	Chhattisgarh	7870
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	36
9	Gujarat	13644
10	Haryana	6082
11	Himachal Pradesh	394
12	Ladakh	186
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1001
14	Jharkhand	3686
15	Karnataka	6080
16	Kerala	977
17	Lakshadweep	7
18	Madhya Pradesh	15783
19	Maharashtra	19354
20	Manipur	1436
21	Mizoram	446
22	Meghalaya	598
23	Nagaland	223
24	Odisha	5913
25	Puducherry	98
26	Punjab	12665
27	Rajasthan	8760
28	Sikkim	22
29	Tamil Nadu	0
30	Telangana	4187
31	Tripura	711
32	Uttar Pradesh	31633
33	Uttarakhand	1616
34	West Bengal	2262
<b>Total</b>		<b>157919</b>

**Note:**

1. Delhi has no GPs and thus not taken up under BharatNet Project.
2. Goa had its own similar broadband network and thus not taken up under Phase-I & Phase-II of BharatNet Project.

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