

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

BHARAT NET PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU

2615 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of the Bharat Net Project;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this project in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the number of villages connected with broadband facility under this project within Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether Government has the data of villages which are still not connected with this facility within Tamil Nadu;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government for expeditiously covering these villages under this scheme?

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

(a) to (f) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. in the rural areas.

In Tamil Nadu, BharatNet project is being implemented by Tamil Nadu Government under State led-model. Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the State Government has been constituted for the same. Under the state-led model, project execution, O&M and utilization is responsibility of State Government. The latest timeline for completion of project execution as given by TANFINET is December 2023. Moreover, the utilization of the created network is yet to start. So far, 4,449 GPs have been made service ready.

Rs 194.88 crore has been sanctioned/allocated and utilized during the last four years (including the current year) in Tamil Nadu under BharatNet project.

Government has revised the strategy for extending BharatNet to connect all inhabited villages and non-GP villages on demand basis. Following steps have been taken by the Government for expeditiously covering the remaining GPs and villages in the country, including Tamil Nadu:

- i. Strict monitoring of the project at various levels by Universal Service Obligation Fund, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/ Bharat Broadband Network Limited with implementing Agencies for speedy roll out of the project.
- ii. Resolving all pending issues in expeditious manner.
- iii. Revised strategy has been formulated for covering all GPs and villages for connecting on OFC, improving O&M and utilization.
