

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 336
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2024**

BHARATNET SCHEME PHASE II

336 SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

Will the Minister of *Communications* be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons that even after lapse of four years of the original deadline, BharatNet scheme Phase II is not completed yet;
- (b) the steps taken to resolve the challenges and complete the target on time; and
- (c) the details of the total network in Andhra Pradesh and the time remaining for completion of the project?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) BharatNet scheme is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the 2.6 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Under BharatNet Phase-II, as on 30.06.2024, 88,239 GPs (91%) out of the scope of 96,967 GPs have been made service ready on Optical fibre, and 4984 GPs (96.5%) out of 5166 GPs in difficult terrain have been made service ready on satellite. The major pendency in Phase-II is under the state-led model in the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Chhattisgarh where the state government is responsible for timely completion of the project through their special purpose vehicle (SPV). The main reasons of non-completion of the Phase-II are as follows:

- i) Widely dispersed across remotest corners of the country and difficult to access LWE affected areas.
 - ii) Delay in obtaining ROW permissions from agencies such as Forests, Railways, NHAI, etc.
 - iii) Delay in finalization of tenders by the state SPVs.
 - iv) Dispute between the state SPVs and Project Implementing Agencies (PIA).
- (b) The steps taken to resolve the challenges and complete the target on time are:
- i) Regular review meetings and video conferences are being conducted to monitor for expeditious completion of project. Meetings are also held to resolve the dispute between state SPVs and their PIAs.
 - ii) Timely disbursal of funds for execution of work, as soon as the project milestone is achieved under Phase-II.
 - iii) Resolving the pending ROW issues with Forests, NHAI, Railways etc.
- (c) In Andhra Pradesh, all 12,955 GPs planned under BharatNet Phase-I & II have been made service ready. Around 526 newly created GPs are planned in the next phase under the Amended BharatNet Program.
