

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET PROJECT

335 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages provided with internet connections under BharatNet Project in last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the total amount of funding allocated from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for the BharatNet Project and status of the fund's utilization in last five years, State/UT wise; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are delays in the implementation of BharatNet Project, if so, the steps taken by Government for successful and timely implementation of the project?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) State/UT-wise list of Gram Panchayats (GPs) provided with broadband connectivity and funds disbursed/utilized under the BharatNet project is available on Digital Bharat Nidhi website (<https://usof.gov.in/en/home>).
- (c) BharatNet is a mega project, widely dispersed across remotest corners of the country, covering difficult terrains (Hilly/ Rocky) and also difficult to access Left-wing extremism (LWE) affected areas. The project implementation faced challenges due to various reasons like delay in obtaining Right of Way permissions from State agencies especially in forest areas, movement restrictions due to Covid- pandemic, damage of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) due to development works such as water pipe line laying, road widening and other construction activities.

For expediting the implementation of the project, close monitoring by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BBNL/BSNL) is being done, and regular review meetings are held with the respective State Government/Implementing Agency. Further, under state-led model, State Level Implementation Committees chaired by Chief Secretary of the respective States have also been constituted to monitor the progress of the project and to resolve the issues in a timely manner.
