

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1815
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

**BHARATNET PROJECT TO PROVIDE E-HEALTH AND
E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES**

1815. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the BharatNet project to extend high-speed broadband connectivity infrastructure to the remaining 1.25 lakh Gram Panchayats, out of the total 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, would be completed in time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the broadband connectivity would offer e-health and e-governance services to the people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Phase-I of the project was completed in December 2017 and over 1 lakh GPs were made Service Ready.

For expediting the project implementation, a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 19.07.2017. Under this strategy, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be provided with broadband connectivity by connecting GPs through an optimal mix of media (i.e. OFC, radio and satellite) and by the three models of implementation; i.e. State-led model, Private Sector, CPSU model. New OFC is to be laid from Block to GPs.

As on 23.12.2018, a total of 1,16,590 GPs have been made Service Ready, and for the remaining GPs, the implementation is underway. BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

(c) & (d) The infrastructure created by BharatNet will be a national asset, available for use by Service Providers on a non-discriminatory basis. Under the project model, service delivery is proposed through Service Providers and States. The broadband connectivity can be used to offer e-services such as e-health and e-governance.
