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

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1819**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

**FOCUS ON SERVICE DELIVERY UNDER BHARATNET**

1819. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

    Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)    whether it is a fact that the final phase of BharatNet project would be completed as per the scheduled date of March, 2019;

(b)    whether it is also a fact that BharatNet has now shifted its focus from network deployment to service delivery, as it has touched nearly 50 per cent of the country's Gram Panchayats or village blocks; and

(c)    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) to(c)        BharatNet is being implemented to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Phase-I of the project to provide broadband connectivity to 1 lakh GPs has been completed in December 2017. As on 23.12.2018, a total of 1,16,590 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready and the implementation of broadband connectivity to remaining GPs is being done in Phase-II of the project. BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

        BharatNet is the aggregation or middle layer of the communication network, with last mile connectivity to be provided by Service Providers or States.

        To ensure better utilization of BharatNet, a Wi-Fi network is being set up under the project. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being set up at each GP. Of these, 3 will cater to Government institutions such as schools, hospitals and police stations, and 2 will be available for citizens. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,379 GPs and of these GPs, services are being provided in 10,943 GPs, catering to more than 11.17 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 62 TB per month.

        Further, a total of 1,00,047 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been provided from BharatNet network.

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