GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 548
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th DECEMBER, 2018

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN GRAM PANCHAYATS UNDER BHARATNET

548. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of targets planned to provide high-speed internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats under BharatNet at its launching and the targets achieved, so far, State-wise;

(b)   whether it is a fact that these targets have already missed various deadlines and there is still failure in its operationalization;

(c)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the action taken to operationalize the BharatNet network?

ANSWER

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

(a)   BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by March 2019. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) has been completed in December 2017. As on 09.12.2018,1,16,492 GPs are Service Ready. The State-wise details are given at **Annexure-I.**

(b) to (d)   For expediting the implementation of BharatNet project, on 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country are to be provided connectivity 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.As per the above Cabinet approval, BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

Network Operating Centre (NOC) is set up to monitor the operation of the network and the project is presently in the implementation phase. The NOC reports are being monitored on a regular basis. To monitor project implementation, the progress is also being monitored closely.

To ensure better utilization of BharatNet, a Wi-Fi network is being set up under the project. On an average, 3 Government Institutions at GP level such as Police Station, Post Office, School, Hospital and citizens at GP are being connected and average 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (AP) are being set up at each GP. So far Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 TB per month.

Status of Provision of High Speed Broadband/Internet under BharatNet

Sr. No	State/UT	GPs where Optical Fiber cable laid and equipment installed (Service Ready)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1183
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3	Andaman & Nicobar	0
4	Assam	1589
5	Bihar	5865
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	4052
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	17
10	Gujarat	5113
11	Haryana	6186
12	Himachal Pradesh	226
13	Jammu & Kashmir	263
14	Jharkhand	2309
15	Karnataka	6110
16	Kerala	1129
17	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18	Maharashtra	15126
19	Manipur	248
20	Meghalaya	122
21	Mizoram	23
22	Nagaland	86
23	Odisha	3496
24	Puducherry	101
25	Punjab	7911
26	Rajasthan	8451
27	Sikkim	14
28	Telangana	2047
29	Tripura	527
30	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31	Uttarakhand	1511
32	West Bengal	2081
	Total	**116492**

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