GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01st April, 2022

SERVICES UNDER BHARAT BROADBAND NETWORK LIMITED

3424 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government is on track to meet the National Broadband Mission's goal of all villages having access to broadband by 2022:

(b) if so, the detai1s thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) the definitions of “service ready”, “service open" and “functional"; and

(d) the number of villages under each category of “service ready" "service open" and “Functional", year wise from 2016 till date?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) Broadband services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the country. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 28.02.2022, by laying 5,67,941 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), 1,68,010 GPs have been made Service Ready on OFC media. Further, 4351 GPs have been made Service Ready on Satellite media. In total, 1,72,361 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country.

The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc.

BharatNet is a challenging project of mega nature as the Gram Panchayats (GPs) are widely dispersed across the country in rural and remote areas. Under BharatNet Phase-II, about 65,000 GPs in 8 States are being implemented under State-led model. The implementation of the same is not meeting the targeted time-lines and is adversely affecting the completion of the Project. Further, the other problems faced in the implementation of the project are on account of covering difficult terrains (including Hilly/ Rocky), Right of Way (RoW) issues and also difficulty in accessing Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

(c) The definition of Service Ready GPs, Service Opened GPs and Functional GPs are as under:

Service Ready GPs: Any GP which has been E2E (End to End) tested OK, GP equipment installed, powered on Configuration completed, connected with Block node and status is live at NOC

Service Opened GPs: Those Service Ready GPs where Acceptance Testing including Broadband test completed.

Functional GPs: GPs whose status is shown as "up" in Network Operations Centre (NOC)

(d) The year-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3424 for answer on 01.04.2022

Year-wise details of Service Ready GPs and Service Opened GPs (from 2016 to February 2022)

S. No.	**Date**	**Service Ready GPs (cumulative) ***	**Service Opened GPs (cumulative) ***
1	March 2016	6547	6547
2	March 2017	17931	17931
3	March 2018	106285	82613
4	March 2019	118519	114454
5	March 2020	138409	135022
6	March 2021	158124	148878
7	February 2022	176171	163124

*including Block Headquarters

Note: The number of Functional GPs varies on a day-to-day basis.

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