

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3421
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST MARCH 2023**

**GRAM PANCHAYATS IN TAMIL NADU CONNECTED
WITH BROADBAND AND WI-FI HOTSPOT**

3421. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the optical fibre cable laid in Tamil Nadu, so far under National Optical Fibre Network project;
- (b) the details of the number of Gram Panchayats in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu that have been connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspot, so far under the said project; and
- (c) the reasons for the number of Gram Panchayats not been connected to the said services in abovesaid district of Tamil Nadu under the said project, so far?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network project) is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country, including Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, around 9,524 km of OFC has been laid under BharatNet project as of February, 2023.

(b) & (c) In Tamil Nadu, BharatNet project is being implemented by the State Government under State-led model covering all GPs of the State through Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the State Government.

The project got delayed, as the first tender floated in December 2019 was cancelled. The second tender was floated in October, 2020 under four packages. But Work order could be awarded for only two packages till October 2021 as the other two packages went under litigation. Subsequently, after disposal of pending litigation, the work of remaining two packages has also been awarded on 30.03.2022 and 27.05.2022. Work in Namakkal district is going on and so far, one GP has been made service ready.
