

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1495  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**BHARATNET PROJECT**

**1495 DR. SANTANU SEN:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of gram panchayats covered under the BharatNet project till now, State/UT-wise details thereof;
- (b) the total funds allocated, disbursed and utilized for the BharatNet project in the past three years and the current year, details thereof;
- (c) the total number of operational Common Service Centers (CSCs) established under the BharatNet project, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to address the challenges such as delays in laying optical fiber cables and ensuring uninterrupted internet connectivity, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b) BharatNet was approved in the year 2011, but the actual implementation of the project started in year 2014. In the last nine years, 2,07,346 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India have been connected under BharatNet. Relevant details of villages covered and funds disbursed under BharatNet are available on DoT website.
- (c) Under the project Common Service Centre (CSC) 2.0 of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), as of October 2023, 5.58 lakh CSCs are functional across the country, out of which 4.44 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat/village level.
- (d) To address the various challenges faced in BharatNet, the government has amended the BharatNet Program to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh crores as follows:
  - i) Upgradation of existing BharatNet network.
  - ii) Focus on utilization of the network through BharatNet Udyamis i.e. village level entrepreneurs.
  - iii) Operation and Maintenance of the entire network through professional agencies for ten years.
  - iv) Dedicated Network Operation centre.
  - v) Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
  - vi) To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections.

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