

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 60
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

BHARATNET CONNECTIONS IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

60 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the fund allocation and utilisation trend since the inception of Bharatnet scheme;
- (b) the details of number of gram panchayats provided with connections over the past five years, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds, allocated and utilized under this project in Bihar during the last three years till date;
- (d) whether Government has the data of villages which are still not connected with this facility within Bihar; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken by Government for expeditious coverage of these villages under the scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) As on 31.12.2023, a total of Rs. 78,653 crore has been disbursed under various schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund including BharatNet. The relevant details state-wise funds and Gram Panchayats connected are available on DoT website.

BharatNet was approved in the year 2011, but the actual implementation of the project started in year 2014. Recently, Government has amended the BharatNet Program to cover all inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs 1.88 Lakh Cr.
