

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2936
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

DEPLOYMENT OF E-PANCHAYAT INFRASTRUCTURE

2936. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister of **PANCHAYATI RAJ** be pleased to State:

- (a) the current status of deployment of e-Panchayat infrastructure in various States, particularly in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the major challenges in providing reliable internet connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in various States, particularly in the State of Maharashtra;
- (c) the manner in which the local technical support and maintenance is being ensured for ePanchayat systems;
- (d) the measures being taken to bridge the digital divide and to ensure equitable access to e-Panchayat services to all citizens, especially in remote areas across the country, particularly in the State; and
- (e) the plans for integration of e-Panchayat with other Government digital platforms and services?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) & (e) Under the Digital India Programme, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) across all States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country. This initiative aims to revamp the functioning of Panchayats, making them more transparent, accountable, and effective. As part of this initiative, the Ministry has launched eGramSwaraj, an online planning and accounting application designed to simplify Panchayat activities such as planning, accounting, and budgeting. The Ministry has also integrated eGramSwaraj with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for Gram Panchayats (GPs) to make real time payments to vendors/service providers. Panchayats use the eGramSwaraj portal to prepare and upload their Annual Panchayat Development Plans. The progress made by States including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra under eGramSwaraj during the year 2024-25 is provided in Annexure-I.

Additionally, the Ministry has integrated eGramSwaraj with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to bring transparency to Panchayat procurement. This integration allows Panchayats to procure goods and services through GeM via the eGramSwaraj platform, promoting the “Vocal for Local” initiative. Further, applications developed by the Ministry like Meri Panchayat has endeavored to bring transparency in Panchayat Governance by making information on planning, activities and progress of works in Panchayat accessible to public. Similarly, Panchayat NIRNAY is an online application aims at bringing transparency and better management in conduct of Gram Sabhas by Panchayats.

Further, an application of ‘AuditOnline’ has been developed for online audits of Panchayat accounts and their financial management. AuditOnline for transparent auditing of Central Finance Commission funds utilization for strengthen financial management of Panchayats launched in April 2020. For the audit year 2022-23, 2.58 lakh Audit Plans have been created and 2.57 lakh Audit Report have been generated by PRIs.

(b) To realize the vision of Digital India, the BharatNet project is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in a phased manner to ensure broadband connectivity across all Gram Panchayats in the country. As of now, out of the total 2.68 lakh Gram Panchayats/Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs), 2.18 lakh GPs/TLBs have been made service-ready to provide high-speed internet services under the project. To further enhance digital connectivity, the Cabinet approved the Amended BharatNet Programme on 4th August 2023. This amendment focuses on upgrading the existing networks established under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, while also creating a network to cover the remaining Gram Panchayats. State-wise details of GPs that are service-ready for broadband services are provided in Annexure-II.

Following challenges encountered in States while implementing BharatNet project including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra:

- 1) BharatNet is an major project aimed at connecting the remotest corners of the country. It encompasses challenging terrains such as hilly, rocky regions and areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), making accessibility a significant hurdle.
- 2) The project involves a multitude of stakeholders, including the Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), central/state agencies, and contractors, adding complexity to its implementation.
- 3) Development activities such as water pipe laying, road widening, gas pipeline installation, and construction projects have caused substantial damage to the Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) infrastructure.
- 4) The availability of experienced executing agencies and resources is insufficient to undertake simultaneous work across the nation, posing a significant bottleneck.

- 5) Obtaining Right of Way (ROW) permissions from various agencies such as Defence, Forest Departments, and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) leads to further delays.
- 6) State Implementing Agencies have faced challenges in the timely finalization of tenders, impacting the project's progress.
- 7) Disputes between State Implementing Agencies (SIA) and Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) add another layer of complexity, slowing down the project.

(c) & (d) The Ministry has implemented ServicePlus to enhance digital service delivery at the Panchayat level. This configurable platform enables the rapid rollout of electronic services. This platform facilitates over 3,606 services across 36 States/UTs, streamlining workflows, enhancing transparency, and ensuring efficiency. Further, the Ministry has also introduced the Model Panchayat Citizens' Charter, aligning local actions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This framework guides Panchayats in delivering services in a time-bound manner while addressing citizens' grievances effectively. The campaign "Meri Panchayat, Mera Adhikaar – Jan Sevaayein Hamaare Dwaar," conducted in 2021, reinforced these efforts. So far, 2.15 lakh Gram Panchayats have uploaded their Citizens' Charters, offering 954 services.

The Ministry is actively engaging with states to support the adoption of the eGramSwaraj application through both virtual and physical training initiatives. Regular review meetings, workshops, hand-holding sessions, video conferences, and visits by senior officials to the states are conducted to assess and enhance progress. A National Project Management Unit (NPMU) plays a central role in coordinating and facilitating the implementation of this project.

All states are putting in efforts to implement the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) within the scope of their available resources. However, the varying levels of preparedness among Panchayats across the country have resulted in states being at different stages of application implementation.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3998 answered on 25.03.2025 regarding 'E-Panchayat Infrastructure'.

State wise adoption of eGramSwaraj at Panchayat level during FY 2024-25

S.No	State Name	Total Number of Village Panchayats & Equivalent	Village Panchayat onboard	Village Panchayats & Equivalent With Online Payment	Total Number of Block Panchayats & Equivalent	Block Panchayat onboard	Block Panchayats With Online Payment	Total Number of Zila Panchayats & Equivalent	Zila Panchayat onboard	Zila Panchayats With Online Payment
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	13328	13296	12970	660	660	642	13	13	13
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	2106	222	0	0	0	27	25	8
3	ASSAM	2662	2197	2176	191	191	189	30	29	27
4	BIHAR	8054	8054	8045	534	534	530	38	38	38
5	CHHATTISGARH	11596	11594	11516	146	146	146	27	27	27
6	GOA	191	190	93	0	0	0	2	2	2
7	GUJARAT	14656	14599	13890	248	248	248	33	33	33
8	HARYANA	6226	6222	5914	143	143	134	22	22	22
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3615	3614	3540	81	81	81	12	12	12
10	JHARKHAND	4345	4345	4329	264	264	262	24	24	24
11	KARNATAKA	5954	5954	5937	238	232	126	31	31	28
12	KERALA	941	941	941	152	152	152	14	14	14
13	MADHYA	23011	23009	22980	313	313	310	52	52	52

S.No	State Name	Total Number of Village Panchayats & Equivalent	Village Panchayat onboard	Village Panchayats & Equivalent With Online Payment	Total Number of Block Panchayats & Equivalent	Block Panchayat onboard	Block Panchayats With Online Payment	Total Number of Zila Panchayats & Equivalent	Zila Panchayat onboard	Zila Panchayats With Online Payment
	PRADESH									
14	MAHARASHTRA	27917	27894	26737	351	351	307	34	34	34
15	MANIPUR	3180	161	123	0	0	0	12	6	4
16	MEGHALAYA	6817	0	0	2241	0	0	3	3	0
17	MIZORAM	842	842	832	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	NAGALAND	1289	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	ODISHA	6794	6794	6793	314	314	314	30	30	30
20	PUNJAB	13237	13222	9775	152	151	114	22	22	19
21	RAJASTHAN	11211	11207	10837	361	353	351	33	33	33
22	SIKKIM	199	199	195	0	0	0	6	6	6
23	TAMIL NADU	12525	12525	12519	388	388	388	36	36	36
24	TELANGANA	12991	12768	12636	572	540	508	32	32	32
25	TRIPURA	1194	1185	1174	75	75	75	9	9	9
26	UTTARAKHAND	7795	7794	7743	95	95	95	13	13	13
27	UTTAR PRADESH	57691	57691	57609	826	826	818	75	75	75
28	WEST BENGAL	3339	3339	3338	345	345	345	22	21	21
Total		263708	251928	242864	8690	6402	6135	652	642	612

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3998 answered on 25.03.2025 regarding 'E-Panchayat Infrastructure'.

State wise details service ready points for providing Broadband connections.

S.No.	States/Uts	Total no. of GPs	No. of Service Ready Points*
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	70	81
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	13327	12972
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	1145
4	ASSAM	2665	1634
5	BIHAR	8054	8860
6	CHHATTISGARH	11623	9759
7	GOA	191	0
8	GUJARAT	14674	14563
9	HARYANA	6225	6204
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3615	416
11	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4291	1115
12	JHARKHAND	4345	4649
13	KARNATAKA	5948	6251
14	KERALA	941	1130
15	LADAKH	193	193
16	LAKSHADWEEP	10	9
17	MADHYA PRADESH	23011	18106
18	MAHARASHTRA	27952	24778
19	MANIPUR	3812	1485
20	MEGHALAYA	6838	697
21	MIZORAM	843	539
22	NAGALAND	1315	236
23	ODISHA	6794	7099
24	PUDUCHERRY	108	101
25	PUNJAB	13236	12807
26	RAJASTHAN	11193	8997
27	SIKKIM	199	54
28	TAMIL NADU	12525	10298
29	TELANGANA	12860	10926
30	THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	42	41
31	TRIPURA	1194	772
32	UTTAR PRADESH	57691	47451
33	UTTARAKHAND	7788	2021

S.No.	States/Uts	Total no. of GPs	No. of Service Ready Points*
34	WEST BENGAL	3339	2958
	Total	269020	218347

***The data is sourced from the BharatNet UNMS Dashboard, and some Gram Panchayats may have multiple service-ready points.**
