

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

BHARAT NET PROJECT

195. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:
SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Bharat Net Project and the number of Panchayats connected with National Optical Fibre Network so far, state-wise including Jharkhand;
- (b) whether the project is lagging behind the target and suffering from acute shortfall in utilisation of funds allocated for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the other difficulties being faced in implementation of this project;
- (d) the time-line set for connecting all the targeted gram panchayats with Bharat Net and the manner in which co-ordination with State Governments has been set for monitoring the progress; and
- (e) whether any skilled manpower pool has been prepared in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) to (c) Status of BharatNet project in Phase-I (as on 06.11.2016):

Items	Achieved
Connectivity (GPs)	12,597
OFC laid (Km)	1,43,445

The State-wise status of BharatNet is enclosed **at Annexure.**

On 30.04.2016, Telecom Commission accorded approval to implement the project in three phases:

- Phase-I – 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under implementation. Being executed by 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) targeted to be completed by March 2017.

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- Phase-II – Balance GPs using an optimal mix of underground/aerial OFC, radio and satellite media. To be implemented by involving CPSEs, State Governments, state PSUs and Private Sector targeted to be completed by September 2018.
- Phase-III – Future proofing of the network with ring topology to be used between districts and blocks; and blocks and Gram Panchayats (GPs).

BharatNet project is a unique project unprecedented in scope, scale and range, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) widely dispersed across the country. In the first phase, around 2.2 Lakh km of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is to be laid to connect 1,00,000 GPs by March, 2017.

The implementation required survey of terrain and the proposed OFC path to connect Gram Panchayats. The incremental fibre laid on the basis of the survey is to be connected to existing fibre.

Field survey of massive nature across rural areas was required. Location of existing fibre is also a challenge. Other difficulties faced in the implementation of the project are as follows:

- (i) Involvement of multiple agencies, Department of Telecommunications, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), (CPSUs)/ Central / State Agencies / contractors etc. and hence requires inter-agency co-ordination for resolution of implementation issues.
- (ii) Procurement and supply related issues.
- (iii) Challenges faced in awarding contracts because of various reasons viz. difficult areas Hilly, Rocky, Left Wing Extremist (LWE), limited number of Trenching & laying contractors, Schedule of Rates (SoR) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), High rates quoted by contractors.
- (iv) Lengthy procedures for Right of Way (ROW) permission from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Forest, Oil & Gas companies etc.
- (v) Unavailability of Gram Panchayat/Government building in some states.

In spite of above constraints, a total of 1,43,445 km of optical fibre cable has been laid till 06.11.2016.

(d) 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats in the country are targeted to be connected in phase-I by March 2017. Remaining GPs are targeted to be connected by September 2018 under phase-II. Phase-II will be implemented by involving CPSUs, State Government, State PSUs and Private Sector. An optimal mix of underground, aerial OFC, radio and satellite media will be used. In Phase-II of the project it is envisaged to lay aerial OFC on electricity lines also. For laying of aerial OFC cable, States have to do the survey and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of their electricity lines, with funding from USOF. 13 States have so far submitted their plan for survey/GIS mapping of their power lines.

(e) Presently, the project is being implemented through three CPSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Powergrid which already have sufficient skilled manpower for this work.

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Annexure

Statewise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 06.11.2016

S.No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	Connectivity provided (GPs)
1.	Assam	1013	2252	2088	770	243
2.	Bihar	5202	8786	7615	2891	333
3.	Chhattisgarh	2110	5392	5147	1724	943
4.	Haryana	6090	6257	6244	3871	296
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	624	253	240	118	0
6.	Karnataka	5599	10383	10764	5256	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	826	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	23760	21458	7141	629
9.	Maharashtra	12055	17623	15471	6999	842
10.	Punjab	6128	6471	6213	4290	70
11.	Rajasthan	6967	15980	15005	4834	810
12.	Uttar Pradesh	22514	35083	26645	12406	920
13.	Uttarakhand	1767	2141	1857	1006	216
14.	West Bengal	2713	2641	2534	920	107
15.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	693	117	22	0
18.	Nagaland	743	2171	818	194	0
19.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	26
20.	Mizoram	163	448	123	5	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1560	1368	641	79
22.	Meghalaya	651	1133	277	80	0
23.	Gujarat	5771	7969	6308	2859	320
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	21	0	0
26.	Telangana	2097	4266	4043	1818	127
27.	Odisha	3388	5801	4962	2091	335
28.	Jharkhand	1428	3046	2920	1202	233
29.	Himachal Pradesh	283	288	196	62	0
30.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total	1,00,289	1,67,202	1,43,445	62,463	12,597

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.
