

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1820
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 26.07.2017

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS

1820. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

- (a) the action taken by the Government to expedite the work in regard to providing digital access particularly in farflung areas/villages;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to promote information technology infrastructure for providing digital connections in Gram Panchayats, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring in private sector for promoting the digital connectivity in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The action taken by the Government to expedite the work in regard to providing digital access particularly in far flung areas/villages, and promoting information technology infrastructure for providing digital connections in Gram Panchayats (GPs) is as under:

(i) **BharatNet:** Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. Telecom Commission in its meeting on 14.12.2016 approved the revised implementation strategy of BharatNet project. It has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakhs) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. The project is planned to be implemented in three phases: Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) which is under implementation. Under Phase-II, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakhs GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, and provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country, which is targeted to be completed by March,2019. Under third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the said project (phase-I), 2,38,489 KMs of pipeline has been laid in 1,06,276 GPs, 2.20 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,152 GPs and 23,147 GPs have been connected so far till July 9, 2017. The detailed status of BharatNet project under Phase-I is given in **Annexure-I**.

(ii) **Wi-Fi Choupal:** The CSC Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) launched an initiative on pilot basis called- **Wi-Fi Choupal for 5,000 Gram Panchayats (GP)**, a rural Wi-Fi service initiative in financial year 2016-17 at the behest of Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India. Wi-Fi Choupal project has been launched to provide Wi-Fi Internet access in rural India through CSCs. As on date, Wi-Fi Infrastructure has been deployed in 2500 GPs across 9 States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka) and 2 Union Territories (Chandigarh and Puducherry). The activation of the internet service has been done at 650 GP locations.

(iii) **National Information Infrastructure (NII):**

A pilot on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).

(iv) **Common Services Centre (CSC):** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India approved a project- “CSC 2.0”, in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme for a period of four years, which envisages setting up of at least one Common Services Centre (CSC) at Gram Panchayat (GP) level to cover all the 2.5 lakhs GPs across the country to facilitate the delivery of citizen centric eServices. M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a CSC Special Purpose Vehicle, CSC -SPV) was engaged as the implementing agency for the project with active support and participation by the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Nodal Department(s), State Designated Agencies (SDAs), and, the District e-Governance Society (DeGS).

Till **June, 2017**, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, out of which, 1,63,226 CSCs are functioning at GP level. The State/UT-wise CSC roll out status is given in **Annexure-II**.

(c) and (d): Under the BharatNet Project, the Government has modified its strategy to implement the project in three phases in collaboration with Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

In order to facilitate the delivery of eServices, particularly in rural areas, M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited was set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) under Company Act, 1956 in 2009. CSC –SPV is collaborating with Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), Private, Public and other eService providers at National level and State/Union Territory (UT) level for seamless delivery of citizen centric eServices across the country including Wi-Fi service (on pilot basis).

The Telecom connectivity is provided by various Telecom Service Providers which includes private players and Government Public Sector undertakings.

Annexure-I

STATUS OF BHARATNET AS ON 09.07.2017		
S.N.	Description of Work	Status
1.	OFC Pipe laid	2,38,489 Kms (1,06,276 GPs)
2.	Optical Fibre laid	2,20,139 Kms (1,00,152 GPs)
3.	Tenders Finalized	3324 Blocks / 1,24,412 GPs
4.	Work Started*	3223 Blocks / 1,20,570 GPs
5.	Current Weekly performance of Optical Fibre laying	662Kms
6.	Current Weekly performance of OFC Pipe laying	889 Kms
7.	Optical Fibre Cable Delivered on site	2,55,499 Kms
8.	GPON Integrated & Tested (Lit)	23,147 GPs

* does not include the data of Andhra Pradesh

State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017

S. No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Cable laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs Lit
1	Assam	1533	3799	4158	1420	1348	354
2	Bihar	5754	12199	12940	4967	4742	711
3	Chhattisgarh	4104	10213	7873	3304	3159	1289
4.	Haryana	6020	9776	10993	5907	5801	894
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	388	427	388	214	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	11784	12193	6026	6010	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35904	31113	12026	11643	3599
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26696	25129	12664	11843	1992
10.	Punjab	8049	9810	9153	6989	6745	637
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21069	20268	7114	7046	1725
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48556	44678	25363	23409	2785
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2792	2636	1503	1463	431
14.	West Bengal	2637	5175	4876	1822	1791	231
15.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0	0

16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	656	609	220	0
18.	Nagaland	994	2614	1475	831	462	0
19.	Manipur	904	333	232	154	122	26
20.	Mizoram	763	735	438	125	73	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1688	1584	834	810	79
22.	Meghalaya	1208	1212	525	433	191	0
23.	Gujarat	6905	10518	9542	5046	4478	1018
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2627	766	520	283	0
26.	Telangana	2017	4538	4462	2038	2038	206
27.	Odisha	3860	8121	7970	3109	3108	517
28.	Jharkhand	2713	5012	4669	1864	1775	529
29.	Himachal Pradesh	252	513	481	155	153	56
30.	Daman & Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total	124127	238489	220139	106276	100152	23147

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

ANNEXURE – II

STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017							
S. No	State	No. of Gram Panchayat (GP)	No. of CSCs Registered including GP	No. of CSCs Registered at GP level	No. of GP covered with Registered CSC	Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP	Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level
		1	2	3	3.1	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	12833	5488	3475	3475	5212	3119
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1779	115	54	54	54	44
3	Assam	2196	2735	2246	1883	2213	1559
4	Bihar	8463	22380	17541	8413	19090	11960
5	Chhattisgarh	9734	11929	8410	9734	11175	7940
6	Goa	189	54	37	37	32	30
7	Gujarat	13735	18062	14845	13735	16805	13885
8	Haryana	6155	8724	5834	5834	7900	4923
9	Himachal Pradesh	3243	2624	2269	2269	2552	1952
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4128	2123	1039	1039	1727	900
11	Jharkhand	4423	9799	7445	4161	9014	5295
12	Karnataka	5628	6564	2665	2665	4963	2333
13	Kerala	979	2676	1969	979	2119	1111
14	Madhya Pradesh	23012	19446	13175	13175	16194	11873
15	Maharashtra	27920	31066	19464	19464	25324	17788
16	Manipur	165	646	256	165	554	207
17	Meghalaya	1463	262	193	193	198	74
18	Mizoram	776	376	316	316	316	176
19	Nagaland	1123	232	230	230	220	138
20	Odisha	6234	8651	6832	5564	6545	5599
21	Punjab	12800	6261	4282	4282	5229	3464
22	Rajasthan	9946	30436	15038	9946	29814	14878
23	Sikkim	165	37	31	31	31	23
24	Tamil Nadu	12618	11069	5773	5773	7408	4646
25	Telangana	8787	5564	3180	3180	5043	2855
26	Tripura	1038	521	442	442	366	322
27	Uttar Pradesh	51914	67054	41675	41675	58876	35804
28	Uttarakhand	7555	5594	4441	4441	4339	3853
29	West Bengal	3351	17527	13584	3230	15653	6330
	State Total	242352	298015	196741	166385	258966	163081
	Union Territory						
1	Andaman & Nicobar	69	49	26	24	42	20
2	Chandigarh	17	112	29	17	65	21
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11	31	16	11	21	9
4	Daman and Diu	14	11	2	2	8	1
5	Delhi	0	2361	0	0	1854	0
6	Lakshadweep	10	3	3	3	2	2

STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017

S. No	State	No. of Gram Panchayat (GP)	No. of CSCs Registered including GP	No. of CSCs Registered at GP level	No. of GPs covered with Registered CSC	Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP	Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level
		1	2	3	3.1	4	5
7	Puducherry	98	192	105	95	113	92
	UT Total	219	2759	181	152	2105	145
	GRAND TOTAL	242571	300774	196922	166537	261071	163226