

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.468
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th JULY, 2017**

POOR INTERNET SERVICES IN VILLAGES

468. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:
SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that despite its campaign of Digital India several villages in the country do not possess internet connectivity and the ones which possess have extremely poor internet speeds and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of villages which are not connected with internet in the country especially in West Bengal, State-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the expected time limit by which each and every village in the country is expected to get high speed internet connectivity; and
- (d) the measures being taken to improve the poor internet speed provided to the villages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

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 OFC by November 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. A state-of-the-art future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks and with for 5G services and Internet of Things era with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. The State-wise status of BharatNet, as on 09.07.2017, is given at **Annexure-I**.

State-wise & District-wise details of villages in the country without internet connectivity are not available. Telecom Service Area-wise rural subscriber base of Internet as on March, 2017 as submitted by service providers to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is, however, given at **Annexure-II**.

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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

**Telecom Service Area wise Rural Internet Subscriber Base as on 31st March, 2017
(Subscribers in Millions)**

Telecom Service Area	Rural Subscriber Base
Andhra Pradesh	12.10
Assam	4.25
Bihar	11.91
Delhi	0.69
Gujarat	8.26
Haryana	3.65
Himachal Pradesh	2.10
Jammu & Kashmir	1.87
Karnataka	6.37
Kerala	6.72
Kolkata	0.76
Madhya Pradesh	7.70
Maharashtra	11.75
Mumbai	0.50
North East	2.22
Orrisa	4.93
Punjab	4.67
Rajasthan	8.71
Tamil Nadu	8.08
Uttar Pradesh (East)	13.41
Uttar Pradesh (West)	7.10
West Bengal	8.80
Total	136.55
