

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 916
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2017**

BHARAT-NET PROJECT

916. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:
SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat-Net Project has been launched to connect all Gram Panchayats to provide high speed internet services in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the norms for the selection of Gram Panchayats under the said programme and the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under the project during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise along with the number of Gram Panchayats which are yet to be linked, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Wi-Fi services are proposed to be provided at public places under the said project and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the people from Gram Panchayats are being provided with quality and affordable internet facility after the introduction of the aforementioned project and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the delay in the progress of the said project and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) whether the Government has launched the second phase of the BharatNet Project and if so, the details thereof including the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through OFC in this phase, State/UT-wise along with the details of the proposal, if any, regarding the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the said project?

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ANSWER

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

- (a) BharatNet project has been launched for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country by March 2019.
- (b) All the Gram Panchayats are being connected in Phased manner. As on 10.12.2017, total 1,05,831 Gram Panchayats have been connected by OFC. State-wise and year-wise list is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (c) Yes, they are proposed at all GPs.
- (d) Services under BharatNet are to be provided by Service Providers. Towards this non-discriminatory access of network is to be provided to Service Providers. Subsidised tariff for bandwidth has been decided.
- (e) & (f) The Project is to be completed by March, 2019. In the Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs, 1,05, 831 GPs have been connected with OFC. Phase-II of the project has been approved by Cabinet to connect remaining GPs on July 19, 2017. The project is to be completed by March, 2019. The total cost of BharatNet approved by the Cabinet is Rs 42068 crore. The implementation of Phase-II is to be done with participations of States, Private Sector & CPSU.

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State/UT-wise number of GPs connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)

S. No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (As on 10.12.2017)
	Units	(GPs)	(GPs)	(GPs)	(GPs)
1	Assam	193	489	568	98
2	Bihar	412	1956	1845	597
3	Chhattisgarh	422	1123	317	1456
4	Haryana	997	2111	1918	875
5	Jammu & Kashmir	0	82	111	47
6	Karnataka	2098	2905	726	333
7	Kerala	1022	107	0	0
8	Madhya Pradesh	547	4459	6077	787
9	Maharashtra	669	3969	6307	1962
10	Punjab	234	2743	2989	1261
11	Rajasthan	1347	2321	2528	987
12	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1048	4708	8857	2334
13	Uttar Pradesh (West)	393	2284	4507	1113
14	Uttarakhand	204	434	809	16
15	West Bengal	159	563	723	466
16	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
17	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0
18	Chandigarh	11	1	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Arunachal Pradesh	0	18	77	296
21	Nagaland	0	142	216	178
22	Manipur	0	24	28	167
23	Mizoram	0	0	50	41
24	Tripura	75	417	268	56
25	Meghalaya	0	52	87	74
26	Gujarat	343	1791	1889	1184
27	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
28	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
29	Puducherry	86	12	0	0
30	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	283
31	Telangana	84	1301	570	83
32	Odisha	441	973	1222	571
33	Jharkhand	170	664	609	488
34	Himachal Pradesh	0	19	106	51
Total		10955	35668	43404	15804
