

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1846
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th MARCH, 2018**

USOF AND LINKING OF PANCHAYAT AND POST OFFICES WITH OPTICAL FIBRE

†1846. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds the Government proposes to spend out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for promoting basic rural facilities under Digital India in the current financial year;
- (b) the total number of gram panchayats and rural post offices provided link with optical fibre network in the country including Jharkhand along with the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the target of linking all the gram panchayats and the rural post offices with the optical fibre network is likely to be achieved;
- (d) whether the Government is satisfied with the pace of work for launching internet services with the fibre; and
- (e) if not, the efforts made by the Government to expedite this work?

ANSWER

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

(a) Rs. 6000 crore has been proposed to be spent out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for promoting basic rural facilities under Digital India by providing broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the current financial year 2017-18.

(b) & (c) The State-wise details of the total number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) provided link with optical fibre network in the country, including Jharkhand, under BharatNet Project are given in **Annexure-I**.

BharatNet Project is to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh GPs in the country, out of these 1.03 lakh GPs have been made Service Ready. The Project is to be completed by March 2019. The extension of broadband connectivity to institutions at GP level is proposed through State Government or the concerned Departments. Department of Post does not have any plan to provide optical fibre connectivity in the country, including in Jharkhand.

(d) & (e) Yes Madam. In December 2017, Phase-I of BharatNet has been completed by connecting one lakh GPs. As on 25.02.2018, a total of 1,12,677 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by laying 2,65,296 km OFC. The number of Service Ready GPs is 1,03,279. A modified strategy to implement BharatNet has been approved by Cabinet on 19.07.2017, which provides optimal mix of media to connect GPs, implementation by State-led Model, Private Sector, CPSU Model, laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs. The timeline for completion of the Project is March, 2019.

Contd...2/-

State/UT-wise Status of BharatNet (as on 25.02.2018)

S. No.	State/UT	Number of Service Ready GPs
1	Arunachal Pradesh	14
2	Assam	1443
3	Bihar	4937
4	Chandigarh	13
5	Chhattisgarh	3559
6	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0
7	Daman & Diu	0
8	Gujarat	4401
9	Haryana	5803
10	Himachal Pradesh	162
11	Jammu & Kashmir	169
12	Jharkhand	1502
13	Karnataka	6071
14	Kerala	1129
15	Lakshadweep	0
16	Madhya Pradesh	10649
17	Maharashtra	13437
18	Manipur	123
19	Meghalaya	122
20	Mizoram	18
21	Nagaland	61
22	Odisha	2402
23	Puducherry	101
24	Punjab	6761
25	Rajasthan	8134
26	Sikkim	4
27	Tamil Nadu	0
28	Telangana	2042
29	Tripura	489
30	Uttar Pradesh	26352
31	Uttarakhand	1361
32	West Bengal	2020
33	Andaman & Nicobar	0
34	Andhra Pradesh	0
	Total	103279
