

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

Broadband Facility to Panchayats

3428. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:
 DR. RATNA DE (NAG):

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has proposed to undertake “installation of broadband facility” at all the Panchayats of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any such proposal for modernization of Panchayats has also been approved for all the Districts of West Bengal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (e): Department of Telecommunications has informed that BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country, including those in West Bengal. Phase-I of the project to connect one lakh GPs has been completed in December, 2017. Implementation of Phase-II to connect remaining GPs is in progress. According to DoT, as on 4th March, 2018, about 1,13,226 GPs in the country have been connected by optical fiber and 1,03,730 GPs have been made service ready. In West Bengal, as on 4th March, 2018, 2088 GPs have been connected, out of which 2020 GPs have been made service ready. Further, under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Annual action plan of West Bengal for Capacity Building and Training including e-enablement of Panchayats has been approved for 2017-18 and accordingly funds have been released to the State for activities including e-enablement. All Gram Panchayats of West Bengal are connected with network facilities of varying quality in terms of availability of network. Under the BharatNet project, all GPs (including those in West Bengal) are targeted to be connected by March, 2019. In West Bengal, Phase-II of the project is being implemented by BSNL.
