

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 273
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2018**

INTERNET BROADBAND FACILITIES

273. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide internet broadband facilities to non-electrified villages and the villages which have less than 100 population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the villages so far connected, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the State-wise reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the broadband services?

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) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Phase-I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh Gram Panchayats has been completed in December, 2017. As on 02.12.2018, a total of 1,16,411 GPs have been made service ready. State-wise list of service ready Gram Panchayats is at **Annexure**.

Further, as part of the BharatNet project, Telecom Commission on 11.07.2018 has approved a Last Mile connectivity model for providing Wi-Fi connectivity to Government institutions. At each GP, 5 Access Points (APs) are being set up, and out of these Access Points, 3 APs are to be installed at Government institutions and 2 APs at public places.

The following schemes, funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), are also under implementation for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in the country:

- (i) Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at its 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges.
- (ii) Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up by CSC at 5,000 Gram Panchayats.
- (iii) Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by RailTel at 200 rural Railway Stations.

So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 Tera Bytes (TB) per month.

State-wise list of Service Ready Gram Panchayats

S.N.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Service Ready Gram Panchayats
1.	Assam	1589
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	1160
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
5.	Bihar	5865
6.	Chandigarh	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	4052
8.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman & Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	5113
11.	Haryana	6186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	226
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	257
14.	Jharkhand	2302
15.	Karnataka	6110
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18.	Maharashtra	15126
19.	Manipur	248
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	19
22.	Nagaland	86
23.	Odisha	3470
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7903
26.	Rajasthan	8447
27.	Sikkim	14
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	527
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31.	Uttarakhand	1508
32.	West Bengal	2081
Total		116411
