

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 703
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JUNE, 2019**

WI-FI CONNECTIVITY

†703. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide high speed Wi-Fi connectivity in 2500 cities, towns and panchayats across the country including Rajasthan under National Optical Fibre Network Project during the next three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any time limit has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the project is not likely to be completed on time due to delay in procurement of necessary devices like gigabyte passive optical network and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if so, the total number of kilometre of fibre cable laid down so far in the country, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) Under BharatNet Project (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network), all the 2,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats of the country are planned to be provided with broadband connectivity. Till date, 1,28,870 GPs (including 8712 GPs of Rajasthan), have been connected with optical fibre, of which 1,19,513 (including 8612 GPs of Rajasthan) GPs have been made Service Ready. As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is to be provided at all the 2.5 lakh GPs in the country. As of now, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 44,140 GPs (including 8661 GPs in Rajasthan).
- (b) Phase I of the project was completed in December 2017 and 1 lakh GPs were made Service Ready. Phase II of the project is under implementation and a total of 2 lakh GPs are targeted to be completed by March 2020.
- (c) All out efforts are being made to expeditiously implement the project. The delay in the initial implementation of the project was on account of:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project as the work on the project began in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Only one media that is underground OFC to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues.

Since May 2016, with the constitution of the following committees, the issues are being resolved timely:

- i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, DoT.
 - ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF.
 - iii) State Committee under Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL for resolution of State level issues.
- (d) Total number of kilometre of fibre cable laid so far in the country, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan is at **Annexure-I**.

Fiber Cable Laid under BharatNet

Annexure-I

Sr. No	States/UTs	Fiber Cable Laid under BharatNet
Units		(Kms)
1	Assam	4810
2	Bihar	19369
3	Chhattisgarh	13940
4	Haryana	11968
5	J&K	749
6	Karnataka	14010
7	Kerala	830
8	MP	46295
9	Maharashtra	36957
10	Punjab	16841
11	Rajasthan	28787
12	UP(E)	45339
13	UP(W)	25430
14	Uttarakhand	3595
15	West Bengal	8384
16	Sikkim	665
17	A&N	34
18	Chandigarh	19
19	Arunachal	1519
20	Nagaland	1998
21	Manipur	634
22	Mizoram	689
23	Tripura	1683
24	Meghalaya	950
25	Gujarat	17929
26	D & D	26
27	D & NH	68
28	Puducherry	92
29	Tamil Nadu	0
30	AP	8317
31	Telangana	5369
32	Odisha	12011
33	Jharkhand	7484
34	HP	723
35	Lakshdweep	0
(Total all States & UTs)		337515
