

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 835  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019**

**BHARATNET PROJECT**

**835. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the BharatNet Project and the current status of implementation of the same;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats connected with the optical fibre under the said project, State/UT-wise and the number of Gram Panchayats where broadband connectivity has been provided, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the reported delay in the execution of the said project and the time by which it is likely to cover all Gram Panchayats across the country along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the funds sanctioned/allocated and utilized under the project during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the internet penetration rate in the country in terms of number of internet subscribers per hundred population, State/ UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) BharatNet, one of the biggest rural telecom projects of the world, is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity at all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The infrastructure created by BharatNet is a national asset and non-discriminatory access to Service Providers is to be provided under the project. The Phase-I was completed in December 2017 under which more than 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) were connected.

On 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. The salient features of the BharatNet Phase-II, which is under implementation, are as follows:

- i. The implementation is to be done through State Model, Private Sector Model and CPSU Model.

- ii. Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite) to be used to connect GPs.
- iii. Service delivery mechanism by providing last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to all GPs has been made an integral part of the project.

As on date, 3,37,515 km Optical Fibre Cable has been laid, thereby connecting 1,28,870 GPs by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), out of which 1,19,513 GPs are Ready for broadband service. In addition 828 GPs have been made Service Ready on satellite media (i.e. a total of 1,20,341 GPs are Service Ready).

(b) Status of GPs connected with optical Fiber, State/UT-wise, under BharatNet project is as per **Annexure-I**.

(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) Funds released by BBNL, State/UT wise in last three years is at **Annexure- II**.

(e) Internet penetration rate in the country, State/UT-wise, is at **Annexure-III**.

## Status of GPs connected with Optical Fiber , State/UT-wise, under BharatNet Project

## Annexure-I

Sr. No	States/UTs	Number of Gram Panchayats connected with Optical Fiber	Number of GPs where Broadband Connectivity has been provided
	Units	GPs	GPs
1	Assam	1622	1622
2	Bihar	6712	6159
3	Chhattisgarh	4303	4088
4	Haryana	6188	6188
5	J&K	368	881
6	Karnataka	6242	6158
7	Kerala	1129	1129
8	MP	13360	12722
9	Maharashtra	15665	15173
10	Punjab	9292	8318
11	Rajasthan	8712	8642
12	UP(E)	20108	18031
13	UP(W)	11447	10354
14	Uttarakhand	1541	1516
15	West Bengal	2328	2171
16	Sikkim	41	17
17	A&N	23	0
18	Chandigarh	13	13
19	Arunachal	565	146
20	Nagaland	644	119
21	Manipur	374	323
22	Mizoram	130	41
23	Tripura	817	543
24	Meghalaya	352	192
25	Gujarat	6405	5829
26	D & D	18	18
27	D & NH	21	21
28	Puducherry	98	101
29	Tamil Nadu	0	0
30	AP	1513	1492
31	Telangana	2047	2047
32	Odisha	3915	3646
33	Jharkhand	2643	2407
34	HP	234	234
35	Lakshdweep	0	0
(Total all States & UTs)		128870	120341

## Annexure-II

<b>funds disbursed by BBNL, State/UT wise for BharatNet project*</b>				
	Financial Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Year 16-17</b>	<b>Year 17-18</b>	<b>Year 18-19</b>
1	A & N	18464332	1600000	0
2	Assam	891768154	30088614	41069932
3	Bihar	1900995444	225376634	483712053
4	Chattisgarh	2412033156	2368208766	2395577291
5	Haryana	906575955	1346574610	94664743
6	J & K	423750351	36357422	137758733
7	Karnataka	12490077	2246872986	238419660
8	Kerala	259560814	0	0
9	Maharastra	5851859025	4235640248	3701109151
10	Madhya Pradesh	4519556872	1902222230	1536060473
11	Punjab	2362941194	0	526383240
12	Rajasthan	1624698933	1082712706	1224720159
13	UP (East)	4231734476	105114087	1268510803
14	Up (West)	2121295001	672513579	1167988739
15	Uttarakhand	1274448954	30802089	28550190
16	West Bengal	1416285784	910420748	114694430
17	Sikkim	432268500	5780972	0
18	Pudducherry	22342903	5316342	0
19	Arunachal Pradesh	176787282.9	139671853	5967951
20	Manipur	185186215.2	146307480	31312662
21	Meghalaya	247461225.6	195508225	20819377
22	Mizoram	132129545.2	123487397	16933556
23	Nagaland	203622895.9	160873490	137020415
24	Tripura	209153900.2	165243293	36899351
25	Gujarat, D & N, Daman & Diu	1297999723	2304089756	3110068187

26	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
27	Telengana	82389383	1122780000	74344690
28	Odisha	1158064960	468995146	778596908
29	Jharkhand	813945657	481310822	1121262052
30	Himachal Pradesh	525127700	13045540	6356752
31	Andhra Pradesh	0	847980000	1812083295
32	Tamilnadu	0	1106410000	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35714938415</b>	<b>22481305036</b>	<b>20110884793</b>
	<b>* *GPON &amp; OFC</b>	<b>5554481492</b>	<b>2584191463</b>	
	<b>***Advance given to BSNL for Phase- II</b>		<b>23020000000</b>	<b>8630000000</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41269419907</b>	<b>48085496499</b>	<b>28740884793</b>
<p>Note*: Funds have been disbursed to three CPSUs namely BSNL, PGCIL and Railtel for Phase-I and to CPSUs and State Governments for Phase-II implementation of BharatNet Project. Reconciliation of Data regarding Utilization of funds by CPSUs/ State Governments is underway.</p>				
<p>Note:** The Payment has been made to 3 CPSUs for decentralized procurements. State wise data is not available as the payment has been released on lumpsum basis. The state wise reconciliation is being done.</p>				
<p>Note:** *BSNL has been given work for 8 States namely Assam, J &amp; K, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, UP-E, UP-W, &amp; West Bengal . The payment has been released on Lumpsum basis. Hence, data is not available State wise.</p>				

**The internet penetration based on TRAI & Census 2011 in the country in terms of internet subscriber per 100 population State & UT wise**

Telecom Service Area	Narrowband		Broadband		Total Internet		Population	Internet Subscriber per 100
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban		
Andhra Pradesh	4.64	4.64	16.09	25.37	20.72	30.01	49,386,799	60.7652679
Assam	0.93	0.67	4.65	4.51	5.59	5.18	31,169,272	16.61894955
Bihar	4.26	1.89	16.24	13.5	20.5	15.38	103,804,637	14.82
Delhi	0.22	2.73	0.51	31.15	0.73	33.88	19,861,488	170.58
Gujarat	1.55	1.91	9.14	25.26	10.68	27.17	60,383,628	45.00
Haryana	0.83	0.61	4.28	8.24	5.11	8.85	25,353,081	34.91
Himachal Pradesh	0.32	0.18	2.79	1.66	3.11	1.84	6,864,602	26.80
Jammu & Kashmir	0.44	0.31	2.29	3.44	2.74	3.75	12,548,926	29.88
Karnataka	1.94	2	9.51	24.99	11.45	26.99	61,130,704	44.15
Kerala	1.15	1.27	8.62	12.77	9.77	14.03	33,387,677	42.02
Kolkata	0.15	1.6	1.17	12.15	1.32	13.75	4,496,694	305.78
Madhya Pradesh	3.39	2.52	10.3	22.36	13.69	24.88	72,597,565	34.27
Maharashtra	3.33	2.93	15.5	28.74	18.83	31.67	112,372,972	28.18
Mumbai	0.12	2.63	1.04	21.94	1.16	24.57	12,967,483	189.47
North East	0.41	0.42	2.3	3.24	2.71	3.65	13,278,350	27.49
Odisha	1.64	0.68	6.99	5.16	8.64	5.84	41,947,358	13.92
Punjab	0.91	1.1	6.02	14.41	6.94	15.5	27,704,236	55.95
Rajasthan	2.4	1.78	12.35	17.48	14.75	19.25	68,621,012	28.05
Tamilnadu	1.77	3.12	9.64	29.49	11.41	32.62	72,138,958	45.22
Uttar Pradesh (East)	4.6	2.41	15.6	18.24	20.19	20.66	62,366,906	33.13
Uttar Pradesh (west)	2.62	1.9	8.32	17.04	10.94	18.94	71,217,132	26.59
West Bengal	2.38	1.55	9.94	10.94	12.33	12.5	91,347,736	13.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38.85</b>	<b>173.29</b>	<b>352.08</b>	<b>213.31</b>	<b>390.91</b>	<b>1,054,947,216</b>	<b>1287.29</b>

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