

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3620
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK PROJECT

3620. SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the optical fibre cables laid under the National Optical Fibre Network project till date and the timeline fixed for achieving the remaining target;
- (b) the details of Gram Panchayats (GPs) including its number connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots under the above project in Maharashtra till date; and
- (c) the details of the number of GPs in Maharashtra which are yet to be connected under the above project?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network Project) is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs). The scope of BharatNet is extended to connect all inhabited villages (including GPs) with timeline of 2025. As on 06.03.2023, a total of 6,20,888 Km of Optical fibre cable has been laid under the project.

(b) & (c) In Maharashtra, under Phase-I of BharatNet project, 15,165 GPs out of the planned 15,170 GPs have been made service ready and Wi-Fi hotspots are installed at 12,054 GPs. Under Phase-II, being implemented under the State-led model by Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Limited (MahaIT), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of State Government, 8,659 GPs out of the 12,641 planned GPs have been made service ready. Further, 6 GPs have been made service ready through Satellite connectivity. The remaining 4,109 GPs (5 GPs of Phase-I, 3982 GPs of Phase-II and 122 newly created GPs) are yet to be connected under the BharatNet project.
