

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5333  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET**

**5333. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has been implementing BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to all the 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the number of GPs that have been provided with broadband connectivity in Madhya Pradesh, especially in the districts of Panna, Chhatarpur and Katni, along with the number of these GPs where the broadband service is active and in usage;
- (c) whether the Government will be able to achieve the target of providing broadband connectivity to all the GPs in the Madhya Pradesh and in the country with the current pace of implementation by the year 2025; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As of 06.03.2023, by laying 6,20,888 Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), 1,84,699 GPs have been made Service Ready on OFC media. Further, 4,703 GPs have been made Service Ready on Satellite media. In total, 1,89,402 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country.
- (b) The details of the number of GPs that have been provided with broadband connectivity under the BharatNet project and the number of the GPs where the broadband service (Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections) has been provided and the number of FTTH connections (usage) in Madhya Pradesh, including in the districts of Panna, Chhatarpur and Katni is given in the table below:

	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	Chhatarpur	Katni
Number of GPs provided broadband connectivity (service ready)	17,813	387	228	115
Number of GPs provided with broadband service by BSNL	3,939	18	25	1
Number of FTTH broadband connections provided by BSNL	41,804	168	303	6

(c) & (d) The scope of BharatNet project has recently been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in all the states/UTs in the country (including Madhya Pradesh) with the completion timeline as December 2025. In order to fast-track progress under the BharatNet project, following steps have inter-alia been taken:

- i. Strict monitoring of the project at various levels by Universal Service Obligation Fund, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/ Bharat Broadband Network Limited with implementing Agencies for speedy roll out of the project.
- ii. Resolving all pending issues in expeditious manner.
- iii. Revised strategy formulated for covering all GPs and villages for connecting on OFC, O&M and utilisation.
- iv. A pilot project for rolling out 5 lakh FTTH connections to rural households has been launched in October 2022 and 1.95 lakh FTTH connections have been provided to rural households.

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