

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1056
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK PROJECT

**1056. SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the optical fibre cables laid in the country including in Maharashtra so far under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project along with the total cost of project and the funds allocated;
- (b) the details of the number of Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra and Jharkhand that have been connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots so far under the said project;
- (c) the reasons for a number of Gram Panchayats not being connected to the said services in Maharashtra and Jharkhand under the said project so far;
- (d) the district-wise details of Gram Panchayats of Jharkhand State yet to be connected; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be connected?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The details of Optical Fibre Cable laid, funds disbursed as of June 2023 for implementation of BharatNet Project in the country and Maharashtra is given in table below:

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| | Total (in kms) | Capex (INR Cr.) | Opex (INR Cr.) |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| National | 6,43,450 | 28,441.97 | 7,263. 04 |
| Maharashtra | 82,485 | 4,116.72 | 354.26 |

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The total cost approved by the Cabinet for National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project (now renamed as BharatNet) for Phase-I and Phase-II is Rs 42,068 Cr.

- (b) As on 30.06.2023, 23,963 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Maharashtra and 4,378 GPs in Jharkhand have been made service ready under BharatNet project. Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 12,054 GPs in Maharashtra and 2,418 GPs in Jharkhand under the project.

- (c) In Jharkhand, all but 38 GPs have been connected under BharatNet, while in Maharashtra, the work is in progress under BharatNet Phase-II in the State-led model by Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Limited (MahaIT), the Special Purpose Vehicle of the State Government. The status is given in table below:

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| State | Total no. of GPs | GPs Service ready | GPs yet to be connected |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Maharashtra | 27,939 | 23,963 | 3,976 |
| Jharkhand | 4,416 | 4,378 | 38 |

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The challenges faced in timely execution of project are that GPs are widely dispersed across remote corners of the country, difficult terrains (including Hilly/ Rocky areas) and also difficulty for access in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas etc.

- (d) District-wise number of Gram Panchayats yet to be made service ready in Jharkhand under BharatNet Project is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (e) Timeline for completion of BharatNet project is 2025 including for remaining GPs of Jharkhand State.

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1056 for answer on 26.07.2023

District-wise number of Gram Panchayats(GPs) yet to be made service ready in Jharkhand under BharatNet Project

District	No. of GPs yet to be connected
BOKARO	1
DEOGHAR	1
EAST SINGHBUM	6
GIRIDIH	1
GODDA	1
HAZARIBAGH	3
LATEHAR	8
LOHARDAGA	3
PALAMU	4
RAMGARH	1
RANCHI	3
SAHEBGANJ	4
WEST SINGHBHUM	2
Total	38
