

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 932
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

INTERRUPTED SERVICES OF BSNL IN MAHARASHTRA

**†932. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) remains interrupted in Maharashtra particularly in rural areas and if so, the details thereof along with its causes;
- (b) whether the Government has received complaints from the State Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to address the said problem particularly in the rural areas;
- (e) whether the Government has fixed any accountability in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the instant measures taken by the Government to solve the said problem and to provide the high speed network in the rural areas?

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

(a) No major interruption has occurred in the services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Maharashtra circle including in its rural areas in recent past. However, there were some interruptions in its services due to power outage, damage of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) / underground copper cables and due to various ongoing development works such as construction of roads, drainage works, water pipe lines etc., which were restored promptly.

(b) to (f) No such complaint has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra. However, BSNL is offering high-speed broadband services in rural areas to its customers on Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network. The old copper cable connections are being migrated to high-speed FTTH network. As on 01/07/2023, 2.33 lakh FTTH connections are working in Maharashtra Circle out of which 66,772 connections are in rural areas.

Further, BharatNet project is being implemented with the support of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and inhabited villages in the country. As on 30.06.2023, 6,43,450 km Optical Fibre Cable has been laid, and 1,94,909 GPs have been made service ready. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi

Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. Using BharatNet, more than 5.65 lakh high speed Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband connections have been provided by BSNL & others ISPs.

In addition to BharatNet, the Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country, which is being executed by BSNL. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas with a provision to include 20% additional villages. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G.
