

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1769  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**OPTICAL FIBRE CONNECTIVITY**

**1769. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the district-wise/Tehsil-wise details of the number of Gram Panchayats in the country which have been connected through Optical Fibre Network of BSNL particularly in Thane Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of the number of Panchayats which are still deprived of this service along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide Optical Fibre Connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the amount of funds allocated by the Government for laying Optical Fibre Network in Thane Parliamentary Constituency till date;
- (e) whether the Government has made provision to provide Optical Fibre Network connectivity to the remaining Gram Panchayats; and
- (f) if so, the details of the funds sanctioned during the current year?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Under BharatNet Phase-I&II, more than 2 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready during the last ten years. Recently, the government has amended the BharatNet Program to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs. 1.88 Lakhs crores as follows:

- i) Upgradation of existing BharatNet network.
- ii) Focus on utilization of the network through BharatNet Udyamis i.e. village level entrepreneurs.
- iii) Operation and Maintenance of the entire network through professional agencies for ten years.
- iv) Dedicated Network Operation centre.
- v) Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
- vi) To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections.

(d) to (f) Under BharatNet Project, funds are disbursed State/Union Territory(UT) wise. In Maharashtra, as of 31.10.2023, Rs. 4605.46 Cr. has been disbursed under Capital Expenditure (Capex) and Rs 355.52 Cr. under Operational Expenditure (Opex) for the implementation of BharatNet, including Thane district. Relevant details are available on DoT website.

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