

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2794
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

PROGRESS IN BHARATNET PROJECT

2794. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets and deadlines set under the BharatNet project and the progress made so far;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to fast-track progress under the BharatNet project;
- (c) whether it is true that the Government failed to get any bids for the implementation of BharatNet in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any corrective steps to attract more bids under PPP mode; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) BharatNet project was announced in 2011, however, the actual rollout commenced in 2014. More than 2.07 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready during the last ten years. In order to fast track the BharatNet implementation, tender was floated in 2021 under PPP model, which did not receive any response. Government has now amended the BharatNet Program 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.
- (iv) Dedicated Network Operation centre.
- (v) Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
- (vi) To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections.
