

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 471  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**BHARATNET PROJECT**

**471. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 2,71,102 rural local bodies, only 80,742 have active internet connections as on 21.01.2023 under the BharatNet Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the timelines in place to ensure that all 2,71,102 rural local bodies have active internet connections; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the steps taken to ensure active internet connections for all service ready Gram Panchayats by 2023-24 and providing broadband connectivity for all Gram Panchayats by 2024-25?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) to (d) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 13.11.2023, a total of 2,07,346 GPs has been made Service Ready under BharatNet. Local bodies are encouraged to get internet connections through BharatNet. 61,715 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have taken connections under BharatNet.

Scope of BharatNet program has been expanded to connect all villages with focus on professional management of the network and utilization of the same. It includes setting up Network Operating Centre (NOC), upgradation of existing network, focus on operation and maintenance (O&M) and provision of 1.5 crore rural home fibre connections distributed across all States/UTs.

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