

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 537
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2023**

FIRST PHASE OF BHARATNET

†537. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh (Eastern/Western) that have been connected in the first phase of BharatNet as on date;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to include all the Gram Panchayats, particularly of Uttar Pradesh in the BharatNet Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the latest status of the same; and
- (d) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. So far, 2,07,346 GPs in the country have been connected including 33,790 service ready GPs in Uttar Pradesh (East) and 11,223 service ready GPs in Uttar Pradesh (West).
- (b) & (c) The Union Cabinet has approved (04.08.2023) the Amended BharatNet Program for extending the scope of BharatNet beyond Gram Panchayats (GPs) to all inhabited villages on demand basis, upgradation of existing network of BharatNet Phase-I and II, building the network in uncovered GPs, Operation & Maintenance for 10 years and to provide 1.5 Cr. rural home fibre connections distributed across all States/UTs. The amended BharatNet program includes covering remaining 8,584 GPs in Uttar Pradesh (East) and 3,816 GPs in Uttar Pradesh (West).
- (d) Total estimated cost for BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, approved by the Union Cabinet is Rs 42,068 Cr. Further, total estimated cost for Amended BharatNet Programme approved by the Union Cabinet is Rs 1,39,579 crores.
