

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3750  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**OPERATIONALIZATION OF BHARATNET PROJECT**

**3750. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of panchayats linked by commercial and operational broadband connections under the BharatNet programme, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether out of one lakh Gram Panchayats, more than 50 per cent had non-performing networks or defective equipments due to which they are facing difficulty in providing connectivity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to resolve this problem and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent of “BharatNet Coverage” in villages of Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is to be provided at all the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Towards this end, provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) is under implementation in each of the GPs of BharatNet Phase-I. As of now, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 Gram Panchayats (GPs), out of which services are being provided in 16,151 GPs. Further, 34,958 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have also been provided. The State-wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

- (b) to (d) BharatNet Network is being monitored through Network Operating Centre (NOC) and its reports are being monitored on a regular basis.

Further, the following steps have been taken for providing stable broadband connectivity from the BharatNet network in the country:

- The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on 13.06.2019 has approved to award the work of maintenance (i.e. O&M of incremental Optical Fibre Cable network and First Line Maintenance of equipment and supporting infrastructure) in each of about 1.25 lakh GPs of the BharatNet Phase-I, to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.
- The Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of BharatNet Phase-II network, is to be carried out mainly through the respective Project Implementation Agencies (PIA).

For expediting the implementation and operationalisation of the project, the following committees have been constituted for timely resolution of the issues:

- i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- iii) State Level Implementation Committee chaired by Chief Secretary of the State would be set up which would have DoT/USOF/BBNL designated officials as its members.

Operations & Maintenance of BharatNet is very challenging as the project is of mega nature and the GPs are widely dispersed across the country in rural and remote areas. However, Action is taken to rectify the faults expeditiously as and when they are reported.

(e) As on 29.11.2019, out of 27,909 GPs (approx.), a total of 15,269 GPs have been made Service Ready in Maharashtra.

**Annexure referred to in Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3750 for Answer on 11.12.2019.**

**State-wise details of commercial and operational broadband connections under the BharatNet**

S. No.	State/UT	No. of GPs where Wi-Fi hotspots installed	No. of GPs where Wi-Fi services provided	No. of FTTH connections
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	157
2	Arunachal Pradesh	142	142	0
3	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
4	Assam	4	0	986
5	Bihar	295	213	339
6	Chandigarh	12	12	0
7	Chhattisgarh	517	435	1163
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	9
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	9
10	Gujarat	26	5	3680
11	Haryana	1063	712	689
12	Himachal Pradesh	330	206	66
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	739	652	41
14	Jharkhand	312	254	1165
15	Karnataka	2569	1854	6787
16	Kerala	731	728	2090
17	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	1350	828	775
19	Maharashtra	776	330	4603
20	Manipur	161	6	0
21	Mizoram	0	0	0
22	Meghalaya	70	70	0
23	Nagaland	0	0	0
24	Odisha	111	107	954
25	Puducherry	81	81	81
26	Punjab	0	0	222
27	Rajasthan	8813	3964	1883
28	Sikkim	0	0	0
29	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
30	Telangana	0	0	593
31	Tripura	80	0	22
32	Uttar Pradesh	27223	5239	6836
33	Uttarakhand	353	311	1073
34	West Bengal	11	2	735
<b>Total</b>		<b>45769</b>	<b>16151</b>	<b>34958</b>

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