

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2956  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**HIGH SPEED BROADBAND SERVICES FOR e-CLASS**

**2956. SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to launch any new affordable communications scheme for the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to connect all the Government schools with high speed broadband systems for online e-classes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The following initiatives are envisaged to provide telecom services in rural areas of the country:
  - (i) Under Left Wing Extremism affected areas Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 2217 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity.
  - (ii) Providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas, Ladakh and Kargil Region and other priority areas.
  - (iii) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages, along with National Highways and to strengthen transmission network.
  - (iv) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
  - (v) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) & (c) 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 access technology, is to be provided in all Gram Panchayats.

Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on 20.12.2019 approved a strategy to provide high speed broadband connectivity to Government Institutions at Gram Panchayat level. Accordingly, 1 Wi-Fi Access Point in Gram Panchayats, and 5 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections to Government Institutions (including Government Schools) at Gram Panchayat level are being provided at the Gram Panchayats of BharatNet Phase-I in all the States, except where Wi-Fi Access Points are provided under other Universal Service Obligation Fund schemes.

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