

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †220
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021

BROADBAND/INTERNET CONNECTIONS

†220. SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the plan of providing Broadband/Internet connections to the Gram Panchayats under the Digital India Programme is being implemented by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats provided Broadband/Internet connections in the country including the State of Chhattisgarh as on date;
- (d) the criteria being followed for providing Broadband/Internet connections to the Gram Panchayats; and
- (e) the time by which the work of providing Broadband/Internet connections is likely to be completed in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c) Under the Digital India Programme, BharatNet project is being implemented to provide last mile broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology including Fiber to the Home (FTTH). Till 15.01.2021, a total number of 1,51,404 GPs have been made Service Ready. This includes 6638 GPs in State of Chhattisgarh.

(d) Under BharatNet project, all the GPs are to be provided with broadband connectivity. Further, as part of this project, the last mile connectivity is to be provided through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology in all GPs to access broadband/internet services.

(e) The BharatNet project was envisaged to be completed by August 2021. However, this time will now be extended as the pace of completion is affected by lockdown and restrictions on movement imposed due to COVID-19.
