

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2723  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**BHARATNET PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA**

†2723. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of phase-II BharatNet project in various States in the country including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to Central Government seeking additional allocation as per tender cost, Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) needs and search for extra BOs under the said project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Central Government has approved the proposal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for the extension of phase-II of BharatNet project in various States in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION 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, including Maharashtra. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the Executing Agency for the project.

BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented under State-led Model, Private Sector and CPSU Model. In Maharashtra, the Phase-II is being implemented under State-led model. The State/UT-wise details of the Service Ready GPs under BharatNet Phase-II are given in **Annexure-I**.

(b) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for revised architecture, including Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) in October, 2018 for a CAPEX amount of Rs. 3789 crore.

The proposal was examined and as the Cabinet approval is for linear architecture and GPON technology, the Telecom Commission(now known as Digital Communications Commission) in its meeting held on 17.10.2018, approved revised CAPEX of Rs. 2980.65crore. The additional cost towards enhanced network architecture and technology, beyond Rs. 2980.65crore, is to be borne by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(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 by the various Governments due to COVID-19.

**Annexure-I**

Annexure referred to in Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2723 for answer on 10.03.2021  
**State/UT-wise status of Service Ready GPs (including BHQs) under BharatNet Phase-II**

S. No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs (Including BHQs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	27
2	Arunachal Pradesh	533
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
4	Assam	0
5	Bihar	2818
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	3134
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0
9	Gujarat	7019
10	Haryana	0
11	Himachal Pradesh	118
12	Ladakh	186
13	Jammu & Kashmir	595
14	Jharkhand	997
15	Karnataka	0
16	Kerala	0
17	Lakshadweep	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	2251
19	Maharashtra	3619
20	Manipur	1095
21	Mizoram	327
22	Meghalaya	372
23	Nagaland	92
24	Odisha	1681
25	Puducherry	0
26	Punjab	4755
27	Rajasthan	30
28	Sikkim	0
29	Tamil Nadu	0
30	Telangana	0
31	Tripura	137
32	Uttar Pradesh	2987
33	Uttarakhand	0
34	West Bengal	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>32773</b>

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