

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3575  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**CURRENT STATUS OF BHARATNET PROJECT**

3575. SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:  
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 2,55,000 Gram Panchayats are proposed to be provided with broadband connectivity under BharatNet project and if so, the details thereof and the reason for pendency of the work for providing 1,10,000 Gram Panchayats with satellite tele-communication facility as on 31st March, 2020;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with net connectivity as on March, 2021 out of those panchayats connected under BharatNet project, State/ UT-wise including Maharashtra; and
- (c) the investment plan made by the Government under the said project along with the amount invested as on March, 2021?

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 create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2.5 lakh) with broadband in the country.

The Phase-I of the BharatNet project has been implemented through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel Corporation of India Limited and the execution of this Phase is almost complete. BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented through State-led Model, Private Sector Model and Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) led Model by using an optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite). As on 08.03.2021, a total number of 1,54,596 Gram Panchayats (Including Block Headquarters) have been made Service Ready and 5,08,328 km Optical Fibre Cable has been laid.

As regards the pendency of the work for providing Gram Panchayats (GPs) with satellite telecommunication facility under the project, it is mentioned that only about 5,200 GPs, located in remote and hilly locations with poor connectivity, are to be connected over satellite media so as to provide broadband connectivity to these GPs expeditiously. Installation has been completed at 3667 GPs, out of which 3652 GPs have been made Service Ready. It is further indicated that BharatNet is a challenging project of mega nature and the Gram Panchayats (GPs) are widely dispersed across the country in rural and remote areas. Since March 2020, pursuant to Lockdown and movement restrictions due to COVID-19 in the country, the project progress is affected. However, with the beginning of unlock phase, all efforts are being made to speed up the project implementation.

(b) The State/UT-wise details are given in **Annexure**.

(c) As per the Union Cabinet approval dated 19.07.2017, the total estimated cost of BharatNet Project is Rs. 42,068 crore and it is to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). As on 31.01.2021, a total of Rs. 26,431.10 crore has been disbursed by USOF for this project.

Annexure referred to in Part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3575 for answer on 17.03.2021

**State/UT-wise details of Connectivity under BharatNet**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of Service Ready GPs (including BHQs)</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8
2	Andhra Pradesh	1707
3	Arunachal Pradesh	637
4	Assam	1627
5	Bihar	8824
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	7354
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39
9	Gujarat	13391
10	Haryana	6203
11	Himachal Pradesh	371
12	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	1174
13	Jharkhand	3608
14	Karnataka	6247
15	Kerala	1129
16	Lakshadweep	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	15087
18	Maharashtra	19024
19	Manipur	1422
20	Meghalaya	514
21	Mizoram	392
22	Nagaland	222
23	Odisha	5670
24	Puducherry	101
25	Punjab	12795
26	Rajasthan	8970
27	Sikkim	28

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of Service Ready GPs (including BHQs)</b>
28	Tamil Nadu	0
29	Telangana	2047
30	Tripura	733
31	Uttar Pradesh	31290
32	Uttarakhand	1539
33	West Bengal	2430
	<b>Total</b>	<b>154596</b>

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