

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2021**

IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET PROJECT

235. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has been facing difficulties in the implementation of BharatNet Project to achieve the set targets and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan especially in the district of Udaipur and the Parliamentary constituency of Pali that are deprived of broadband connectivity; and
- (c) the GPs in the country, State/UT-wise including of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan, identified by the Government for extending broadband services under the said project and the time by when the same is likely to be completed by the Government?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 235 FOR 4TH AUGUST, 2021 REGARDING “IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET PROJECT”

(a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 09.07.2021, a total number of 1,57,919 Gram Panchayats have been made Service Ready in the country. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs.

The implementation of the project is affected mainly on account of:

- (i) GPs are widely dispersed across remote corners of the country, covering difficult terrains (including Hilly/ Rocky) and also difficulty for access in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas;
- (ii) Phase-I of the project began only in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (iii) In Phase-I, only one media (i.e. is underground Optical Fibre Cable) has been used to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues impacted the implementation.
- (iv) Under BharatNet Phase-II, about 65,000 GPs in 8 States are being implemented by the State Government under State-led model. The implementation of the same is not meeting the targeted time-lines and is adversely affecting the completion of the Project.
- (v) Since March 2020, pursuant to lockdown and movement restrictions due to COVID-19, the progress of the project has been adversely affected.

(b) & (c) The State/UT-wise details of the planned GPs, Service Ready GPs, and the GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready in the country (including Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan) under BharatNet project, are given in **Annexure-I**. As on 09.07.2021, total 195 GPs in the District of Udaipur and 36 GPs in the Parliamentary constituency of Pali are yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet project. The targeted date for completion of the BharatNet project in the country is August, 2023.

Annexure referred to in Parts (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 235 for answer on 04.08.2021

State/UT-wise details of BharatNet project (as on 09.07.2021)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of planned GPs	No. of Service Ready GPs	No. of GPs yet to be made Service Ready
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	70	21	49
2	Andhra Pradesh*	13371	1703	11668
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1796	721	1075
4	Assam	2662	1497	1165
5	Bihar	8404	8295	109
6	Chandigarh	12	12	0
7	Chhattisgarh*	11664	7870	3794
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	38	36	2
9	Goa#	191	0	191
10	Gujarat*	14402	13644	758
11	Haryana	6171	6082	89
12	Himachal Pradesh	3226	394	2832
13	Jammu & Kashmir	4289	1001	3288
14	Jharkhand*	4395	3686	709
15	Karnataka	6084	6080	4
16	Kerala	977	977	0
17	Ladakh	193	186	7
18	Lakshadweep	10	7	3
19	Madhya Pradesh	22791	15783	7008
20	Maharashtra*	27882	19354	8528
21	Manipur	2785	1436	1349
22	Meghalaya	1790	598	1192
23	Mizoram	763	446	317
24	Nagaland	994	223	771
25	Odisha*	6817	5913	904
26	Puducherry	108	98	10
27	Punjab	13262	12665	597
28	Rajasthan	11341	8760	2581
29	Sikkim	186	22	164
30	Tamil Nadu*\$	12520	0	12520
31	Telangana*	12769	4187	8582
32	Tripura	1021	711	310
33	Uttar Pradesh	58710	31633	27077
34	Uttarakhand	7791	1616	6175
35	West Bengal	3340	2262	1078
Total		262825	157919	104906

*The Phase-II is being implemented under State-Led model in these States.

\$ Tamil Nadu State Government signed the MoU with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) on 31.03.2017 for implementation of BharatNet project. Phase-I of BharatNet was accordingly not taken up in Tamil Nadu and the State's GPs are being implemented in Phase-II under State-Led model.

Goa had its own similar broadband network and thus not taken up under Phase-I & Phase-II of BharatNet Project.

Note: Delhi has no GPs and thus not taken up under BharatNet Project.
