

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1480  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2021**

**BHARATNET PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU**

1480. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Bharat Net Project;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this project in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made by the Government so far under this project in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the details of the number of villages covered under the said project in Tamil Nadu so far; and
- (e) whether the Government has planned to provide broadband facilities to each village through this project within Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof along with the target set by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers. The Phase-I has been implemented by laying incremental underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in linear topology with Gigabyte Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology. The implementation of Phase-II is by connecting GPs through an optimal mix of media (i.e. OFC, radio and satellite) and by laying new OFC from Block to GPs.

On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country covering about 3.61 lakh villages including GPs.

The Tamil Nadu State Government signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) on 31.03.2017 for implementation of BharatNet project. Phase-I of BharatNet was accordingly not taken up in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, all the Gram Panchayats of Tamil Nadu State are being taken up in Phase-II of BharatNet. Further, this is being implemented under the State-led model.

The BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented in Tamil Nadu by the State Government under 4 Packages (namely A, B, C and D).The actual implementation work is yet to commence. Letters of Acceptance (LoA) have been issued for all the 4 Packages. However, 2 Packages are in litigation and the matter is pending for disposal. The timeline for project completion is 360 days from the date of issuance of Award of Work.

Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the Executing Agency for BharatNet Project under Department of Telecommunications, has released funds for implementation of the project in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years and the current year as given below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Funds released (in Rs. crore)</b>
2018-19	0
2019-20	0.01
2020-21	36.98
2021-22 (till date)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.99</b>

(d) & (e) The implementation of BharatNet upto GPs in Tamil Nadu is being done for about 12,524 GPs through State-led Model. The present approval for PPP model for BharatNet does not include Tamil Nadu State. However, the Union Cabinet on 30.06.2021 has accorded in-principle approval for extending broadband to all inhabited villages of the remaining States and Union Territories (UTs), including Tamil Nadu and the targeted date for completion upto each inhabited village is August, 2023.

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