

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2021**

NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK

†2606. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Optical Fibre laid so far under National Optical Fibre Network Project;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats across the country which are connected under this project, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats which are still to be connected thereunder in the State of Jharkhand, district-wise; and
- (d) the amount spent by the Government on this project so far and the estimated cost outlay to complete this project?

ANSWER

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

- (a) BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network) 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 of 5,30,928 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid under this project in the country.
- (b) The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of the Service Ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project in the country are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (c) In the State of Jharkhand, the District-wise details of the GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet project, are given in **Annexure-II**.
- (d) The State/UT-wise funds allocation is based on the requests received from the Implementing Agencies. As on 31.03.2021, an amount of about Rs. 24,201 crore has been allocated/utilized under BharatNet Project in the country.

The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended upto all inhabited villages beyond 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 total approved cost for BharatNet project is now Rs. 61,109 crore. This includes Rs. 42,068 Crore for BharatNet (Phase-I and Phase-II) and a maximum of Rs. 19,041 crore on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for implementation of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model of BharatNet in 16 States. Since the approval for extending Fibre connectivity to all inhabited villages in the country has been taken very recently, the estimated incremental cost for the same for all the States/ UTs has not been finalized.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2606 for answer on 04.08.2021
State/UT-wise details of the Service Ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project (as on 09.07.2021)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Service Ready GPs
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21
2	Andhra Pradesh*	1703
3	Arunachal Pradesh	721
4	Assam	1497
5	Bihar	8295
6	Chandigarh	12
7	Chhattisgarh*	7870
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	36
9	Goa#	0
10	Gujarat*	13644
11	Haryana	6082
12	Himachal Pradesh	394
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1001
14	Jharkhand*	3686
15	Karnataka	6080
16	Kerala	977
17	Ladakh	186
18	Lakshadweep	7
19	Madhya Pradesh	15783
20	Maharashtra*	19354
21	Manipur	1436
22	Meghalaya	598
23	Mizoram	446
24	Nagaland	223
25	Odisha*	5913
26	Puducherry	98
27	Punjab	12665
28	Rajasthan	8760
29	Sikkim	22
30	Tamil Nadu*\$	0
31	Telangana*	4187
32	Tripura	711
33	Uttar Pradesh	31633
34	Uttarakhand	1616
35	West Bengal	2262
Total		157919

*Under implementation in State-Led model in Phase-II

\$ The 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.

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.

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2606 for answer on 04.08.2021
The District-wise details of the GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet project in Jharkhand (as on 09.07.2021)

S. No.	Name of District	No. of GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready
1	Bokaro	9
2	Deoghar	10
3	Hazaribag	12
4	Koderma	6
5	Ramgarh	2
6	Ranchi	12
7	Sahebganj	5
8	Dhanbad	78
9	East Singhbhum	38
10	Giridih	7
11	Latehar	16
12	Lohardaga	4
13	Palamu	33
14	Chatra	46
15	Dumka	61
16	Garhwa	69
17	Godda	44
18	Gumla	59
19	Jamtara	36
20	Khunti	7
21	Pakur	20
22	Saraikela - Kharsawan	32
23	Simdega	22
24	West Singhbhum	81
Total		709
