

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1718
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2021**

PROGRESS OF BHARATNET PROJECT

1718. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BharatNet project, the world's largest broadband project to provide Internet services to Gram Panchayats of the country is progressing as scheduled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of the project in the State of Andhra Pradesh (AP) as on date;
- (d) whether the Government of AP has requested to release sufficient funds to complete the project and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 01.11.2021, a total number of 1,66,088 GPs are made Service Ready in the country. The scope of BharatNet on 30.06.2021 was extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country. The target date for completion of the project is August, 2023.

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, a total of 1,692 GPs were taken up for implementation under Phase-I through Powergrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), out of which 1,681 GPs have been made Service Ready, as on 01.11.2021. The Phase-II in Andhra Pradesh is implemented in State-led model through the State Government under which 27 GPs have been made Service Ready out of 11,719 planned GPs. Further, 15 GPs were planned on Satellite media. In total, 1708 GPs have been made Service Ready in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) & (e) The payment for BharatNet Phase-II, implemented by the State Government, is released to the State Implementing Agency on completion of milestones as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed with them. Till date, an amount of Rs. 227.14 crore was released to the State Implementing Agency. Based on a request received from the State Government recently, an additional release of Rs. 100 crore has been approved.
