

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

**LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9THFEBRUARY, 2022**

PHASE I & II OF BHARATNET

1166. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Gram Panchayats (GP) and Blocks the Union Government has proposed to cover under Phase I and Phase II of BharatNet project in Maharashtra and Odisha;
- (b) the details of GP and Blocks so far covered under the said programme;
- (c) the details of broadband connections working and provided with infrastructures to provide high speed broadband connectivity in Maharashtra and Odisha as on date and the action taken/being taken for providing Broadband facility to all GPs under the said programme;
- (d) the details of percentage of utilisation of Phase I of the BharatNet project in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Odisha;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to provide Wi-Fi technology under the BharatNet project so the internet facilities is provided in rural areas in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Odisha; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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 the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. In the States of Maharashtra and Odisha, Phase-II of the Project is being implemented by the State Government.

In Maharashtra, the Phase-I was implemented through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and in Odisha, the Phase-I was implemented through Powergrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

The details of Gram Panchayats (GP) and Blocks proposed and covered under Phase-I and Phase-II of BharatNet Project in Maharashtra and Odisha are **Annexed**.

(c) to (f) The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized for provisioning of broadband/internet services through Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. The steps taken for providing broadband facility are given below:

- (i) Under BharatNet Phase-I, work has been awarded for providing Wi-Fi Services in about 1.20 lakh GPs (including that of Maharashtra and Odisha) with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Out of the aforesaid GPs, provisioning of FTTH connections to 5 Government Institutions per GP is also included in 77,000 (approx.) GPs. The percentage of utilization of Phase-I in Maharashtra and Odisha is 87% and 72% respectively.
- (ii) BharatNet Phase-II in Maharashtra and Odisha is being implemented by the State Governments, which are also responsible for its utilization. However, no Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed under Phase-II so far.
- (iii) In Maharashtra, 19,262 FTTH connections have been provided and Wi-Fi hotspots are installed in 11,014 GPs. In Odisha, 8,611 FTTH connections have been provided and Wi-Fi hotspots are installed in 2,511 GPs.
- (iv) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has signed 50 Agreements with Service Providers for providing broadband services across various States (including 10 Agreements for Maharashtra and 1 Agreement for Odisha) by utilizing BharatNet Phase-I network. Further, 2 Agreements have been signed with Service Providers for providing services on an All India basis (including Maharashtra and Odisha).

Annexure

(Referred to in part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha
Unstarred Question No.1166 for 09th February 2022)

**Details of Gram Panchayats (GP) and Blocks proposed and covered under Phase-I and
Phase-II of BharatNet Project in Maharashtra and Odisha**

State	Phase	Proposed Blocks/GPs (for which work assigned)		Status of Covered/ Service Ready Blocks/ GPs	
		Blocks	GPs	Blocks	GPs
Maharashtra	Phase-I	203	15171	203	15159
	Phase-II*	148	12745	131	6626
Odisha	Phase-I	181	3810	181	3809
	Phase-II*	133	2989	132	2715

(* including GPs on satellite media by BBNL/BSNL)
