GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2308
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2022

BROADBAND FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS

2308. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether a large part of the rural population is deprived of broadband/internet facility if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of villages provided with internet connectivity under the BharatNet project so far, State/UT-wise;

(b)   whether the Government has not been successful in achieving the target fixed for providing internet/broadband connectivity to villages and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   whether the Government has reviewed the broadband project design for rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) to (c)   As per the data provided by Telecom Service Providers and Field Units of Department of Telecommunications, it is estimated that out of 5,97,618 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the country, a total number of 5,58,537 villages have mobile broadband wireless coverage.

BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 28.02.2022, a total number of 1,72,361 GPs are made Service Ready in the country. The State/UT-wise details of Service Ready GPs under BharatNet are given in **Annexure-I**. Now, the scope of BharatNet project has been extended upto villages beyond GPs in the country.

The Union Cabinet on 30.06.2021 has accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country. The Cabinet has also accorded in-principle approval for extending broadband to all inhabited villages of the remaining States and Union Territories (UTs). The timeline of the BharatNet project is 2025.

The Government, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), is extending 4G mobile connectivity to uncovered villages in a phased manner in order to provide mobile and broadband services to the citizens.

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2308 for answer on 16.03.2022

State/UT-wise details of Service Ready Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet (as on 28.02.2022)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of GPs Planned	No. of GPs Service Ready
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	70	24
2.	Andhra Pradesh*	13420	1716
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1796	769
4.	Assam	2664	1508
5.	Bihar	8404	8302
6.	Chandigarh	12	12
7.	Chhattisgarh*	11682	8856
8.	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	38
9.	Goa#	191	0
10.	Gujarat*	14287	14119
11.	Haryana	6259	6082
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3226	406
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	4281	1076
14.	Jharkhand*	4395	4254
15.	Karnataka	6086	6083
16.	Kerala	978	978
17.	Ladakh	193	190
18.	Lakshadweep	10	9
19.	Madhya Pradesh	22841	17340
20.	Maharashtra*	28238	21977
21.	Manipur	2785	1436
22.	Meghalaya	1791	651
23.	Mizoram	763	452
24.	Nagaland	994	232
25.	Odisha*	6799	6617
26.	Puducherry	108	98
27.	Punjab	13337	12668
28.	Rajasthan	11352	8770
29.	Sikkim	185	24
30.	Tamil Nadu*$	12520	0
31.	Telangana*	12769	6886
32.	Tripura	1021	723
33.	Uttar Pradesh	59365	36090
34.	Uttarakhand	7962	1649
35.	West Bengal	3348	2326
	Total	**264170**	**172361**

*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 Ph-I & Phase-II of BharatNet Project.
Note: Delhi has no GPs and thus not taken up under BharatNet Project.

****