

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1779  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

**INTERNET FACILITIES IN ALL GRAM PANCHAYATS**

1779. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is ensuring internet facility in all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken to intensify operationalization of the same;
- (c) the details of number of GPs in the country which do not have any internet facility, State/UT wise; and
- (d) the details of fund released and utilized in this respect during the last two years, for linking GPs with internet?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Broadband/Internet services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered villages of the country. 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) of the country. As on 04.07.2022, total 1,77,550 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country.

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 to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of such network, created for providing the services, is done by the respective Service Providers.

BharatNet network is monitored through centralised Network Operating Centre (NOC) and its reports are monitored on a regular basis. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) based O&M for BharatNet Phase-I, through professional agencies, has been entrusted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). For the O&M of Phase-II of BharatNet, the respective Implementing Agencies are responsible for life time maintenance of the network.

Further, the following steps have been taken for effective utilization of BharatNet:

- Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the Executing Agency for BharatNet project, has signed about 100 Agreements with Service Providers for utilizing BharatNet Phase-I network in the country.
  - BSNL has developed Franchisee Management System (FMS) for onboarding the franchisees and revenue share partners of BSNL and over 700 franchisees have been inducted so far for utilisation of BharatNet.
  - For the Phase-II of BharatNet, the respective Implementing Agencies are making separate efforts for the utilization of the network.
- (c) The State/UT-wise details of the GPs, yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (d) Rs. 10,226 crore has been disbursed during the last two years under BharatNet project.

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1779 to be answered on 27.07.2022  
**State/UT-wise details of the Gram Panchayats (GPs), yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet**

S. No.	State/UT	Total Number of GPs	Number of Service Ready GPs	Number of GPs yet to be made Service Ready
1	Andaman & Nicobar	70	39	31
2	Andhra Pradesh*	13420	2840	10580
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1796	769	1027
4	Assam	2664	1511	1153
5	Bihar	8404	8307	97
6	Chandigarh	12	12	0
7	Chhattisgarh*	11684	9102	2582
8	Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli	38	38	0
9	Goa#	191	0	191
10	Gujarat*	14288	14180	108
11	Haryana	6259	6082	177
12	Himachal Pradesh	3616	407	3209
13	Jammu & Kashmir	4281	1082	3199
14	Jharkhand*	4395	4291	104
15	Karnataka	6086	6083	3
16	Kerala	978	978	0
17	Ladakh	193	191	2
18	Lakshadweep	10	9	1
19	Madhya Pradesh	22841	17692	5149
20	Maharashtra*	28238	22124	6114
21	Manipur	2782	1440	1342
22	Meghalaya	1792	654	1138
23	Mizoram	762	452	310
24	Nagaland	983	232	751
25	Odisha*	6792	6746	46
26	Puducherry	108	98	10
27	Punjab	13340	12668	672
28	Rajasthan	11352	8770	2582
29	Sikkim	185	20	165
30	Tamil Nadu*\$	12524	0	12524
31	Telangana*	12769	7972	4797
32	Tripura	1021	726	295
33	Uttar Pradesh	59365	38010	21355
34	Uttarakhand	7962	1662	6300
35	West Bengal	3348	2363	985
	<b>Total</b>	<b>264549</b>	<b>177550</b>	<b>86999</b>

\*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.

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