

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 490
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2022**

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY UNDER BHARATNET PROJECT

490. 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 and if so, the details thereof along with the number of villages provided with internet connectivity under the BharatNet Project so far, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to merge the Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL) with the BSNL; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the reason behind the nonparticipation of any company in the tender floated in 2021 to revise the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for the Bharatnet project; and
- (d) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the broadband project design for rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) 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 04.07.2022, a total number of 1,77,550 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.

- (b) Yes Sir. Merger of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will bring greater synergy in the Operations & Maintenance and Utilization for BharatNet.
- (c) Global Bids were invited on 20.07.2021 for implementation of BharatNet under PPP model in 16 States and opened on 27.01.2022. However, no response was received.
- (d) No Sir.

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 490 for answer on 20.07.2022

State/UT-wise details of Service Ready GPs under BharatNet

S. No.	State	No. of Service Ready GPs
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	39
2	Andhra Pradesh*	2840
3	Arunachal Pradesh	769
4	Assam	1511
5	Bihar	8307
6	Chandigarh	12
7	Chhattisgarh*	9102
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	38
9	Delhi	0
10	Goa#	0
11	Gujarat*	14180
12	Haryana	6082
13	Himachal Pradesh	407
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1082
15	Jharkhand*	4291
16	Karnataka	6083
17	Kerala	978
18	Ladakh	191
19	Lakshadweep	9
20	Madhya Pradesh	17692
21	Maharashtra*	22124
22	Manipur	1440
23	Meghalaya	654
24	Mizoram	452
25	Nagaland	232
26	Odisha*	6746
27	Puducherry	98
28	Punjab	12668
29	Rajasthan	8770
30	Sikkim	20
31	Tamil Nadu*\$	0
32	Telangana*	7972
33	Tripura	726
34	Uttar Pradesh	38010
35	Uttarakhand	1662
36	West Bengal	2363
	Total	177550

*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.
