

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1385
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

OFC WITH BHARATNET PROJECT

†1385. **SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand through effective use of BharatNet enabled connectivity to transform 2.5 lakh villages into digital villages;
- (b) if so, the number of villages targeted to be covered in Maharashtra district-wise;
- (c) the length of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in kilometer laid in the rural areas of Maharashtra so far; and
- (d) the details of the number of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections commissioned along with the number of Wi-Fi hotspots set up to ensure last-mile connectivity district-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (around 2.65 lakh) of the country, including 27,939 GPs in Maharashtra.
- (b) to (d) The Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laid under BharatNet in Maharashtra is 85,290 km, till October end, 2024. The details of district-wise number of GPs made service ready and Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections commissioned under BharatNet in Maharashtra are available on Digital Bharat Nidhi website (<https://usof.gov.in/>). Total Wi-Fi hotspots installed under BharatNet in the state is 12,054 GPs.
