

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

PROGRESS OF BHARATNET PROJECT

**1500. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:
SHRI Y S AVINASH REDDY:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of the BharatNet Project and the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this project in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the number of villages connected with broadband facility under BharatNet Project within Tamil Nadu till date;
- (c) whether the Government has the data of villages still not connected with this facility within Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to expeditiously cover these villages under this scheme;
- (e) the estimated timeline for connecting the remaining villages under the project; and
- (f) the details about the standards set for fiber cables under Bharat Net Project?

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) in the country. The infrastructure created under the 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 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fiber, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. in the rural areas.

State-wise and year-wise funds allocated in last three years under BharatNet in the country including Tamil Nadu is available on the Digital Bharat Nidhi website (<https://usof.gov.in/>).

(b) to (e) Under the state-led model in Tamil Nadu, project execution, operation and maintenance, and utilization is the responsibility of the State Government. All the 12,525 GPs of the state are in the scope of work in the ongoing project. 10,295 GPs are service ready in Tamil Nadu till date.

The Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) in August 2023 for covering all GPs in the country including upgradation of existing network of BharatNet and connectivity to remaining non-GP villages (about 3.8 lakh) on demand basis. The connectivity to remaining 4,767 (approx.) non-GP villages in Tamil Nadu on demand-basis is under the scope of ABP. The timeline for completion of the construction phase under the Amended BharatNet Program is three years from award of the contract.

(f) The Technical specifications as per Telecommunication Engineering Centre – Generic Requirement (TEC-GRs) standards are adhered for the optical fiber cables laid under BharatNet project.
