

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1556  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**HIGH SPEED FTTH INTERNET**

**1556. SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiative to provide high speed FTTH internet services including the long distance connection to the people of rural and remote areas at an affordable tariff by BSNL directly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) BharatNet project in a phased manner provisions broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Through a pilot project funded from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) (erstwhile USOF), BSNL has provided high speed FTTH connections in GPs/villages using BharatNet network through local partners/entrepreneurs called BharatNet Udyamis (BNUs).

The Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023 has approved Amended Bharatnet Program (ABP) with an outlay of Rs. 1, 39, 579 crore for extending the scope of BharatNet to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.64 lakh Gram Panchayats and approximately 3.8 lakh villages on demand basis across 28 states and 8 UTs. Further, ABP has been approved to improve penetration of high speed FTTH Internet in rural areas, wherein there is a provision to provide 1.5 Cr FTTH connections distributed across all States/UT's using BNU model.

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