GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024

BHARATNET PROJECTS IN PUNJAB

2535.   SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the current status of implementation of Bharat Net Projects in Punjab, including the number of Gram Panchayats connected to high-speed internet and optical fiber along with the details of number of uncovered Panchayats and villages;

(b)   the details pertaining to the fund allocated and utilised for Bharat Net projects in Punjab since its inception;

(c)   the challenges being faced in extending Bharat Net connectivity to the rural and remote areas of Punjab and the steps being taken to address them; and

(d)   the manner in which the Government monitors the quality and reliability of internet services provided under Bharat Net Projects in Punjab?

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 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Punjab. So far, 12,668 GPs, out of total 13,337 GPs have been made service ready in Punjab.

(b)   In Punjab, as on 30.09.2024, total amount of Rs. 1422.98 crore has been utilized under BharatNet project.

(c)   Difficult terrain in rural & remote areas, difficulty in getting right of way permissions (RoW), and non-availability of stable power supply are the main challenges faced in extending BharatNet connectivity in rural and remote areas in the country including Punjab. However, the work under the scope of Phase-I and Phase-II is already complete in the state.

(d)   The operation and maintenance of the BharatNet network is done by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) through professional agencies based on service level agreement (SLA) based contracts. BharatNet network is monitored through centralised Network Operating Centre (NOC) and its reports are being monitored on a regular basis.

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