GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2572
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024

BHARATNET AND USOF

2572. SHRI BASAVARAJ BOMMAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the specific outcomes achieved by the Government under the Universal Connectivity and Digital India initiatives from 2014 to 2024, including improvements in internet accessibility, affordability and digital inclusion in the rural and remote areas;

(b)   the number of villages connected under the BharatNet and Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) schemes, State-wise, including Karnataka;

(c)   the current status of pending targets under the scheme, State-wise;

(d)   whether any measures have been adopted to monitor the impact of these initiatives on the local economy and employment and technological development in underserved regions; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)   The Government has taken various initiatives and projects with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)], under the Universal Connectivity. The details are available on Digital Bharat Nidhi website (https://usof.gov.in/en/home).

(b) to (c)   State-wise including Karnataka, the number of GPs connected under the BharatNet project and number of villages connected under various mobile schemes of DBN alongwith pending targets under these schemes are available on Digital Bharat Nidhi website (https://usof.gov.in/en/home).

(d) & (e)   Government has launched the Digital India programme with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-based economy, by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. The details are available on the Digital India website (https://www.digitalindia.gov.in).

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