GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

BHARATNET PROJECT IN LADAKH

3014.   SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the current status of implementation of BharatNet Project in the Union Territory of Ladakh, including the number of Gram Panchayats connected to high-speed internet and optical fibre along with the details of number of uncovered Panchayats and villages;

(b)   whether the Government has put forward any proposed timeline to cover all Gram Panchayats in the UT of Ladakh and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the details of the fund allocated and utilised under the BharatNet project in the UT of Ladakh since its inception;

(d)   the challenges being faced in extending BharatNet connectivity to the rural and remote areas of UT of Ladakh and the steps being taken to address them; and

(e)   the manner in which the Government monitors the quality and reliability of internet services provided under Bharat Net Project?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   All the 193 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Ladakh have been provided BharatNet connectivity through Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite media. The Government has approved Amended BharatNet Project (ABP) to cover all the GPs on ring connectivity. The project also provides for connectivity to all non-GP villages on demand basis. Currently, ABP for the Ladakh package is in tender evaluation stage.

(c)   The payment towards installation of Gateway equipment, satellite bandwidth charges, and other charges have been made centrally for all the satellite sites in the country under BharatNet. Rs. 125 crore has been approved by the Government under ABP for Ladakh.

(d)   Despite challenges faced due to difficult and hilly terrain of Ladakh, all the 193 GPs have been provided connectivity through satellite media.

(e)   The network is monitored through Network Operating Centers installed at Delhi and Bengaluru.

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