LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4176
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025

BSNL OPTICAL FIBER NETWORK

4176.   SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:
PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

 (a)   the data on Gram Panchayats connected via the Optical Fiber Network, highlighting the progress in rural and remote regions, State-wise;

 (b)   the details of the States having the highest and lowest connectivity rates through BSNL's Optical Fiber Network;

 (c)   the targets for connecting all Gram Panchayats in the country through Optical Fiber and by when the Government plans to achieve them;

 (d)   whether there has been any delay in meeting the timeline for the completion of this project and if so, the reasons therefor;

 (e)   the details of the total expenditure incurred by BSNL for the Optical Fiber Network connectivity to Gram Panchayats so far;

 (f)   the challenges encountered in connecting Gram Panchayats in remote, hilly and tribal areas to the Optical Fiber Network; and

 (g)   the steps being taken to overcome these challenges and expedite connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g)   The details of Gram Panchayats (GPs) planned and service ready through optical fiber on BharatNet (State wise) is attached as **Annexure-I**. The remaining GPs and villages on demand basis are planned to be covered under Amended BharatNet Program approved by the Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023.

BSNL has incurred expenditure of Rs. 11,629 crore for Optical Fiber connectivity to GPs under BharatNet.

The challenges encountered in connecting GPs in remote, hilly and tribal areas to Optical Fiber Network include inaccessible areas, dense forest, delay in Right of Way (ROW) permissions and poor road infrastructure etc. To overcome these challenges regular meetings are conducted to monitor expeditious completion of the project, resolution of pending ROW issues, uses of All-dielectric Self-Supporting Optical Fiber Cable (ADSS OFC) and usage of alternate technology like VSAT etc.

S.No.	State	No. of GPs planned	Service ready on OFC	Service ready GPs on Satellite	Total Service ready (OFC + Satellite)	% Rate of GPs connectivity through OFC under BharatNet
1	Assam	2,665	1,502	5	1,507	56.36
2	Bihar	8,405	8,324	16	8,340	99.04
3	Chhattisgarh	11,711	9,681	14	9,695	82.67
4	Haryana	6,256	6,082	0	6,082	97.22
5	Jammu & Kashmir	4,299	413	688	1,101	9.61
6	Karnataka	6,090	6,084	0	6,084	99.90
7	Kerala	978	977	1	978	99.90
8	Madhya Pradesh	22,858	17,812	38	17,850	77.92
9	Maharashtra	27,939	24,569	6	24,575	87.94
10	Punjab	13,337	12,664	4	12,668	94.95
11	Rajasthan	11,352	8,746	30	8,776	77.04
12	Uttar Pradesh (E)	43,072	34,263	11	34,274	79.55
13	Uttar Pradesh (W)	16,218	12,449	23	12,472	76.76
14	Uttarakhand	7,937	1,819	172	1,991	22.92
15	West Bengal	3,340	2,674	3	2,677	80.06
16	Sikkim	185	26	9	35	14.05
17	Chandigarh	12	12	0	12	100.00
18	Lakshadweep	10	0	9	9	0.00
19	Arunachal Pradesh	1,959	77	1,047	1,124	3.93
20	Nagaland	1,007	116	120	236	11.52
21	Manipur	2,936	315	1,160	1,475	10.73
22	Mizoram	784	41	499	540	5.23
23	Tripura	1,179	598	142	740	50.72
24	Meghalaya	1,857	122	576	698	6.57
25	Gujarat	14,324	14,294	26	14,320	99.79
26	Daman & Diu	18	18	0	18	100.00
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	20	0	20	100.00
28	Puducherry	110	98	0	98	89.09
29	Andhra Pradesh	13,481	12,935	20	12,955	95.95
30	Telangana	12,865	10,825	0	10,825	84.14
31	Odisha	6,798	6,741	44	6,785	99.16
32	Jharkhand	4,416	4,376	14	4,390	99.09
33	Himachal Pradesh	3,615	252	158	410	6.97
34	Ladakh	193	0	193	193	0.00
35	Goa	191	0	0	0	0.00
36	Tamil Nadu	12,525	10,298	0	10,298	82.22
37	Andaman & Nicobar	72	68	4	72	94.44
	Total	**2,65,014**	**2,09,291**	**5,032**	**2,14,323**	**78.97**

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