GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 571
ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2025

BHARATNET PHASE-III

571.   SHRI ARUN BHARTI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the current status of BharatNet Phase-III (launched in Sept., 2024), its total outlay and the timeline for its completion;

(b)   the number of Gram Panchayats in Bihar, particularly in Jamui district, that have functional, high-speed BharatNet connections;

(c)   the total number of Last-Mile Service Providers (LSPs) and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) onboarded in Bihar to provide home broadband;

(d)   the number of BharatNet Udyamis trained and certified in Jamui district; and

(e)   the steps being taken to address network downtime and ensure the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the already laid fibre?

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) and villages beyond GPs on demand basis across the country. An estimated outlay approved for Amended BharatNet Program (BharatNet Phase - III) is Rs. 1,39,579 crores and timeline for completion of construction of the project is 36 months from signing of Agreement with Project Implementation Agency (PIA). Agreement has been signed with Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) for Twelve Packages for thirteen States and five UTs.

(b)   A total 3375 GPs in Bihar including 109 GPs particularly in Jamui district have functional high speed BharatNet connections.

(c) & (d)   Around 396 BharatNet Udyamies (BNUs) have been onboarded in Bihar to provide FTTH connections using BharatNet network. BNU could be a Village Level Entrepreneur, Internet Service Provider, Self Help Group (SHG), etc. Six BharatNet Udyamis have been trained and certified by BSNL in Jamui district.

(e)   Under Amended BharatNet program, following steps have been included to address network downtime and ensure the operations and maintenance (O&M) of already laid fiber:

(i)   Creation and Upgradation of BharatNet network in ring architecture
(ii)   Operations & Maintenance of the entire network based on Service Level Agreement (SLA)
(iii)   Single Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for construction and O&M of the network in a Package
(iv)   Dedicated Network Operation Centre

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