

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 948
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd MARCH, 2016

Wi-Fi Connectivity

†948. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to provide free of cost Wi-Fi connectivity services in Cities and Panchayats including Rajasthan under National Broadband Project in future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any time limit has been prescribed for completion of such project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the delay in getting necessary Gigabit Passive Optical Network, the completion of project is likely to be delayed; and
- (f) if so, the total stretch in kilometers of completion of fibre network in the country including Rajasthan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

The timeline for connecting one lakh GPs with OFC to provide broadband connectivity under Phase-I has been revised to 31.12.2016.

In order to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of NOFN Project, a Committee was constituted on 14th January, 2015. The Committee submitted its report on 31st March, 2015. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended that the project be renamed as BharatNet to reflect the national aspiration to establish a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to realize the vision of Digital India, in partnership with the States and the private sector. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that at least one hour of free Wi-Fi usage per day for each resident of the GP should be provided by the identified community Wi-Fi services provider.

(e) & (f) Efforts are being made to expedite the supply of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) equipment for timely completion of the project. State-wise status of NOFN, including Rajasthan, as on 31.01.2016, is given in the Statement at **Annexure-I**.

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Annexure-I**Statewise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 31.01.2016**

S.No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	No. of GPs lit
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	624	93	69	47	0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	283	201	75	14	0
3.	Punjab	6128	4432	3280	2055	0
4.	Haryana	6090	4775	4340	2776	45
5.	Rajasthan	6967	11281	10065	3092	71
6.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
7.	Uttarakhand	1767	1190	862	554	46
8.	UP (West)	8040	8095	4290	2055	65
9.	UP (East)	14474	14634	10545	4764	36
10.	Bihar	5202	6416	5303	1936	124
11.	West Bengal	2713	1933	1683	619	0
12.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Assam	1013	1751	1359	515	23
14.	Jharkhand	1388	2600	1862	770	84
15.	Odisha	3388	4086	2960	1355	12
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	272	69	10	0
18.	Nagaland	743	1160	509	154	0
19.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	0
20.	Meghalaya	638	737	210	47	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1277	951	434	40
22.	Mizoram	163	183	0	0	0
23.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	15531	12134	3898	26
24.	Chattishgarh	2110	4368	3913	1258	171
25.	Gujarat	5735	5508	3572	1648	91
26.	Maharashtra	12055	11078	7826	3478	37
27.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Karnataka	5599	9596	9248	4348	2283
30.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	19	0	0
31.	Telengana	2097	3912	2883	1296	5
32.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Kerala	977	746	810	1129	1129
34.	Pudducherry	98	82	92	98	101
35.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0
36.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total	100200	117939	89021	38386	4401

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

