

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 995
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd MARCH, 2016**

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

†995. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide total internet connectivity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of plan formulated for rural areas State-wise including Chhattisgarh; and
- (c) the funds released and spent by each of the States particularly Chhattisgarh for the purpose?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Chhattishgarh, 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. The project is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and initial estimated cost of the project is Rs. 20,100 Crores. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

State-wise plan of GPs, including Chhattishgarh, to be covered under NOFN project is given in the Statement at **Annexure-I**.

As the project is being executed by single executing agency i.e. BBNL, funds to the tune of Rs. 4075.83 crore have been released to it.

Contd.....2/-

State-wise plan of Gram Panchayats (GPs) to be covered under NOFN project

S.No.	States/ UTs	Total No. of Blocks	No. of Blocks in Phase-I	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	143	22	624
2.	Himachal Pradesh	78	6	283
3.	Punjab	143	66	6128
4.	Haryana	122	122	6090
5.	Rajasthan	246	186	6967
6.	Chandigarh	1	1	12
7.	Uttarakhand	95	28	1767
8.	UP (West)	238	128	8040
9.	UP (East)	568	227	14474
10.	Bihar	534	315	5202
11.	West Bengal	341	273	2713
12.	Sikkim	27	0	0
13.	Assam	238	91	1013
14.	Jharkhand	259	74	1388
15.	Odisha	314	167	3388
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	9	7	69
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	155	26	256
18.	Nagaland	51	36	743
19.	Manipur	41	2	24
20.	Meghalaya	28	15	638
21.	Tripura	44	44	1021
22.	Mizoram	26	6	163
23.	Madhya Pradesh	313	140	10516
24.	Chattishgarh	146	34	2110
25.	Gujarat	223	93	5735
26.	Maharashtra	352	169	12055
27.	Daman & Diu	1	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	0	0
29.	Karnataka	176	176	5599
30.	Andhra Pradesh	609	0	0
31.	Telangana	443	109	2097
32.	Tamil Nadu	385	0	0
33.	Kerala	152	152	977
34.	Pudducherry	3	3	98
35.	Lakshadweep	9	9	10
36.	Goa*	-	-	-
	Grand Total	6515	2727	100200

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