GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

PROGRESS UNDER BHARATNET

2918. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:
SHRI Y S AVINASH REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and deadlines set under the BharatNet project and the progress made to date;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fast-track progress under the BharatNet project;

(c) whether it is true that the Government failed to get any bids for the implementation of BharatNet in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same;

(e) whether the Government has taken any corrective steps to attract more bids under PPP mode; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs). The total number of GPs undertaken under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II are 2,22,341 GPs, out of which 2,14,904 are Service Ready. Implementation of BharatNet is periodically reviewed by the Government and also in State Broadband Committee(s) and District Level Telecom Committee(s).

(c) & (d) Bids under PPP model were invited for BharatNet for nine packages in 2021-2022. Only one non-compliant bid for one package was received. The risks in implementing BharatNet in rural and remote areas are very high and therefore, the private sector partners did not come forward in the PPP bids.

(e) & (f) A revised implementation model has been worked out and Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023 to provide optical fiber connectivity to ~2.64 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and ~3.8 lakh non-GP villages on demand basis across the country. Implementation of ABP shall be undertaken on Design Build Operate and Maintain (DBOM) model by professional agencies selected as Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) through open bidding process.

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