

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 73
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2018**

BHARATNET PROJECT

*73. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BharatNet Project has been launched to connect all Gram Panchayats to provide high speed internet services in the country and if so, the details including the salient features thereof;

(b) whether the Government has completed the phase-I of the said project and if so, the details thereof including the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under the said phase during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked/allocated and spent by the Government under phase-I of the said project, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has launched the second phase of the BharatNet Project and if so, the details thereof including the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through OFC in this phase, State/UT-wise and the timeline fixed for the completion of the said phase along with the time by which all the Gram Panchayats are proposed to be provided with high speed internet services; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide digital board and internet connectivity in all schools through the aforementioned project and if so, the details thereof along with the internet penetration rate in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *73 FOR 7TH FEBRUARY, 2018 ON “BHARATNET PROJECT”.

(a) Yes, Madam. BharatNet Project (initially National Optical Fibre Network) has been launched to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. The salient features of the project are as follows:

- i. The infrastructure created by BharatNet is a national asset and non-discriminatory access to Service Providers is to be provided under the project.
- ii. The project is being implemented in a phased manner. The implementation of Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) is through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Powergrid. BharatNet Phase II approved by the Cabinet on July 19, 2017 to connect remaining (approx. 1,50,000) GPs is being implemented.
- iii. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was setup to establish, manage & operate the BharatNet infrastructure.
- iv. The total cost of BharatNet to connect all GPs (approx. 2,50,000) approved by the Cabinet on July 19, 2017 is Rs 42,068 crore.

(b) Yes, Madam. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 GPs has been completed. In Phase I, as on 28.01.2018 a total of 1,11,084 GPs have been connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and 1,02,326 GPs are Service Ready. The State/Union Territory (UT) -wise status of GPs connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) An amount of Rs 11,148 crore was approved for BharatNet Phase I, out of this Rs 10,286 crore has been allocated to BBNL. Implementation of Phase I is being done through three CPSUs, to whom the funds are provided in accordance with their spending; upto January, 2017, a sum of Rs 9,027 crore has been spent in the BharatNet Phase I. The State/ UT-wise funds spent is given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) Yes, Madam. The Government has launched the second phase of the BharatNet Project. On 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. Telecom Commission on 08.09.2017, 29.09.2017 and 21.12.2017 has approved the implementation plans for States. BharatNet Phase II, which includes providing broadband connectivity to all GPs is to be completed by March 2019. The salient features of the BharatNet Phase-II are as follows:

- i. The implementation is to be done through State Model, Private Sector Model and CPSU Model.
- ii. Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite) to be used to connect GPs.
- iii. Service delivery mechanism by providing last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to all GPs has been made an integral part of the project.

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(e) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to the Gram Panchayats. Under the project model, the service delivery is proposed through Service Providers. The State Government and/or the Departments of Central Government are to provide connectivity to the Government institutions, including connectivity for digital board and internet connectivity at GP level. However, all necessary facilitation for such connectivity is to be made by BBNL/ USOF/ DOT.

The internet penetration in the country, as on 30th September, 2017, is 33.22 subscribers per 100 population.

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Annexure-I**State/UT-wise number of GPs connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)**

State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (As on 28.01.2018)
Assam	193	489	568	185
Bihar	412	1956	1845	993
Chhattisgarh	422	1123	317	1972
Haryana	997	2111	1918	931
Jammu & Kashmir	0	82	111	56
Karnataka	2098	2905	726	342
Kerala	1022	107	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	547	4459	6077	904
Maharashtra	669	3969	6307	2768
Punjab	234	2743	2989	1447
Rajasthan	1347	2321	2528	1934
Uttar Pradesh	1441	6992	13364	4850
Uttarakhand	204	434	809	21
West Bengal	159	563	723	628
Sikkim	0	0	0	12
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	11	1	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	18	77	328
Nagaland	0	142	216	198
Manipur	0	24	28	217
Mizoram	0	0	50	44
Tripura	75	417	268	56
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	52	87	128
Gujarat	343	1791	1889	1347
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	5
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	86	12	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	283
Telangana	84	1301	570	87
Odisha	441	973	1222	644
Jharkhand	170	664	609	598
Himachal Pradesh	0	19	106	79
Total	10955	35668	43404	21057

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Details of funds spent under Phase-I of the BharatNet project, State/ UT-wise

S. No.	State	Amount in Rs.
1	A & N	22219868
2	Assam	1364168154
3	Bihar	3563995444
4	Chhattisgarh	4122179521
5	Haryana	2011858509
6	J & K	533431796
7	Karnataka	3182063333
8	Kerala	597060814
9	Maharashtra	9989139273
10	Madhya Pradesh	10176592366
11	Punjab	3136390927
12	Rajasthan	5147077233
13	UP (East)	7674297319
14	UP (West)	3583095001
15	Uttarakhand	1789319347
16	West Bengal	2503787459
17	Sikkim	440268500
18	Puducherry	42621150
19	North East	2161200130
20	Gujarat, D & N, Daman & Diu	2664618993
21	Lakshadweep	1034134
22	Telangana	1792989383
23	Odisha	3345163106
24	Jharkhand	1316156479
25	Himachal Pradesh	768763301
26	Andhra Pradesh	965616954
27	Tamil Nadu	108055326
	Total	73003163823
	*Equipment and Others	17268571923
	Total	90271735746
	Note:* Since procurement of equipment has been made by BBNL and three implementing CPSUs, this amount could not be bifurcated into States.	
