

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1003
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

FTTH CONNECTIONS

1003. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which BSNL would start releasing FTTH connections under the BharatNet Phase-I districts of Karnataka;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to attract ISPs to provide FTTH connections in rural areas;
- (c) the reasons behind poor utilization of BharatNet project;
- (d) the action plan to connect all villages with internet connectivity in Karnataka; and
- (e) whether Wi-Fi technology would be used extensively to provide internet services in rural areas under BharatNet project, if so, the details thereof along with the plan for deployment of Wi-Fi technology in rural Karnataka?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) BSNL has already started work for providing Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections under BharatNet Project in districts of Karnataka.
- (b) to (e) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Karnataka. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country, including Karnataka.

The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc

As of June, 2023 a total 16004 Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections in 1710 Gram Panchayats have been commissioned in various districts of Karnataka through BharatNet.

Further, the following steps have been taken for effective utilization of BharatNet:

- (i) The All-India conference of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) was held on 12-13 June, 2023 to attract ISPs for appointing them as franchises through revenue share model under BharatNet Udhyami Scheme for providing Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections in rural areas.
- (ii) The utilization of BharatNet Phase-I was assigned to M/s Common Service Centre (CSC) e-Governance Limited was from 01.07.2019 to 30.06.2022 and w.e.f. 01.07.2022, the work of utilization of BharatNet Network has been assigned to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). With this new arrangement, the utilization of BharatNet is picking up and as of June 2023, 5.67 lakh (Phase-I - 4.25 lakh and Phase-II- 1.42 lakh) Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections have been commissioned in the country including Karnataka.

The Government has also launched 4G saturation scheme implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for providing 4G mobile coverage to all uncovered villages in India, including Karnataka.
