

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014
PROVISION OF BROADBAND CONNECTIONS
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

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

- (a) whether the Government has been formulating any plan to provide broadband facility to all the Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan including Jalore-Sirohi district;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the location-wise number of Gram Panchayats where broadband facility has not been provided in Rajasthan; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for providing better telephone and broadband facilities to the Gram Panchayats in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. The Government is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to provide broadband facility to all the Gram Panchayats in the country (approx. 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats), which includes all the Gram Panchayats of the districts of Jalore and Sirohi in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) The details of the Gram Panchayats in the country are enclosed at Annexure-I. It has been planned to provide broadband facility to all the 151 Gram Panchayats of Sirohi district and 143 Gram Panchayats of Jalore district in Phase-I (2014-15). The balance 121 Gram Panchayats of Jalore district would be connected in Phase-II (2015-16).

(c) Broadband facility with 100 Mbps bandwidth has been provided to all the 30 Gram Panchayats of Arain Block in Ajmer District (Rajasthan) under NOFN Pilot Project. This pilot work was concluded on 15.10.2012. All the remaining Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan are to be provided broadband connectivity in NOFN project in a phased manner.

(d) Steps taken by the Government for providing better broadband facilities to the Gram Panchayats in the country are as follows:

Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created to execute the project has entered into agreement with 3 CPSUs [Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel & Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)] to utilize their existing optical fiber to implement the work on ground for laying incremental optical fiber for connecting all Gram Panchayats (GPs). The 3 CPSUs have initiated action for inviting tenders for connecting 1,00,000 GPs. The balance Gram Panchayats would be connected in a phased manner.

Under Village Public Telephone (VPT) scheme, 5,82,368 villages out of 5,93,601 inhabited villages have been provided VPT connection (Details at Annexure-II). This scheme is being implemented by BSNL with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).