

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1591
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018**

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET FACILITIES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

1591. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of targets planned to provide telephone and high speed internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats under BharatNet and targets achieved so far, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats, particularly in Gujarat, which have not yet been provided with telephone and high speed internet service facility, district-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these targets have already missed various deadlines and there is still failure in operationalization;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the action taken to operationalize the BharatNet network; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone and high speed internet services facility to Gram Panchayats?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b)
- i. BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) has been completed in December 2017. As on 09.12.2018, OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,492 GPs, which are Service Ready, and the remaining GPs are under implementation. The State-wise details are at **Annexure-I**.
 - ii. A total of 43088 villages, including GPs, in the country are to be covered by mobile services. For Gujarat, the District-wise details of uncovered villages are at **Annexure-II** and GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet are at **Annexure-III**. As per the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018; all uncovered areas, including GPs, are targeted to be connected by 2022.

(c) to (e)

- i. BharatNet is the aggregation or middle layer of communication network, with last mile connectivity to be provided by Service Providers or States. The network is planned to be completed by March 2019.
- ii. Network Operating Centre (NOC) is set up to monitor the operation of the network and the project is presently in the implementation phase. The NOC reports are being monitored on a regular basis. To monitor project implementation, the progress is also being monitored closely.
- iii. To ensure better utilization of BharatNet, a Wi-Fi network is being set up under the project. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being set up at each GP. Of these, 3 will cater to Government institutions such as schools, hospitals and police stations, and 2 will be available for citizens. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,365 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 10,815 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 TB per month.
Further, a total of 99, 711 FTTH connections have been provided from BharatNet network.

(f) The other steps, taken by the Government, to provide better telephone and high speed internet services facility to villages including Gram Panchayats are:

- i. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** A project to provide mobile connectivity in Phase-I has been completed and 2341 towers have been installed. Phase-II of the project has been approved, and 4072 towers are planned under this project.
- ii. **North Eastern Region (NER):** Following measures have been taken for expansion of mobile coverage in NER:
 - Under Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for NER, BSNL has been assigned the installation of 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two Districts of Assam.
 - M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited have been selected to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and along National Highways in NER (except Meghalaya).
 - 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya are planned.

Annexure-I**Status of Provision of High Speed Broadband connectivity under BharatNet**

Sr. No	State/UT	GPs where Optical Fibre cable laid and equipment installed (Service Ready)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1183
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	43
3	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	0
4	ASSAM	1589
5	BIHAR	5865
6	CHANDIGARH	13
7	CHHATTISGARH	4052
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	21
9	DAMAN & DIU	17
10	GUJARAT	5113
11	HARYANA	6186
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	226
13	JAMMU & KASHMIR	263
14	JHARKHAND	2309
15	KARNATAKA	6110
16	KERALA	1129
17	MADHYA PRADESH	12689
18	MAHARASHTRA	15126
19	MANIPUR	248
20	MEGHALAYA	122
21	MIZORAM	23
22	NAGALAND	86
23	ODISHA	3496
24	PUDUCHERRY	101
25	PUNJAB	7911
26	RAJASTHAN	8451
27	SIKKIM	14
28	TELANGANA	2047
29	TRIPURA	527
30	UTTAR PRADESH	27940
31	UTTARAKHAND	1511
32	WEST BENGAL	2081
	Total	116492

District-wise details of uncovered villages of Gujarat

S. No.	District Name	No of Uncovered Villages
1	AHMEDABAD	14
2	AMRELI	22
3	ANAND	1
4	BANAS KANTHA	61
5	BHARUCH	30
6	BHAVNAGAR	35
7	DOHAD	9
8	GANDHINAGAR	2
9	JAMNAGAR	70
10	JUNAGADH	51
11	KACHCHH	176
12	KHEDA	4
13	NARMADA	120
14	NAVSARI	5
15	PANCH MAHALS	28
16	PATAN	25
17	PORBANDAR	19
18	RAJKOT	37
19	SABAR KANTHA	40
20	SURAT	11
21	SURENDRANAGAR	33
22	TAPI	65
23	THE DANGS	226
24	VADODARA	153
25	VALSAD	25
	TOTAL	1262

Annexure-III**District-wise Status of connectivity in respect of Gujarat**

S. No	District	Total No. of GPs	Service Ready GPs	Balance GPs yet to be connected
1	AHMEDABAD	462	0	462
2	ARAVALLI	295	0	295
3	BHARUCH	543	354	189
4	BANAS KANTHA	784	0	784
5	DAHOD	638	0	638
6	DANG	71	0	71
7	DEVBHOO MI DWARKA	239	0	239
8	GANDHINAGAR	294	264	30
9	GIR SOMNATH	329	0	329
10	JUNAGADH	901	0	901
11	KHEDA	565	491	74
12	PATAN	466	361	105
13	AMRELI	585	425	160
14	KUTCHCH	605	410	195
15	NAVSARI	370	370	0
16	BHAVNAGAR	758	659	99
17	ANAND	351	351	0
18	MAHESANA	594	340	254
19	MAHISAGAR	291	0	291
20	MORBI	338	0	338
21	NARMADA	220	0	220
22	PORBANDAR	147	83	64
23	PANCH MAHALS	438	0	438
24	RAJKOT	592	0	592
25	SABARKANTHA	420	404	16
26	SURAT	567	0	567
27	SURENDRANAGAR	539	0	539
28	TAPI	283	0	283
29	VALSAD	373	92	281
30	VADODRA	534	241	293
31	CHHOTA UDAIPUR	324	268	56
	TOTAL	13916	5113	8803
