

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3982
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH JULY, 2019**

IRREGULARITIES IN BHARATNET PROJECT

**3982. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is lagging behind in achieving the targets of connecting Gram Panchayats by Broadband under the Bharatnet Project in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities in implementation of the Bharatnet Project across the country along with action taken/ being taken by the Government on such complaints so far, State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. In December 2017, the phase-I of the BharatNet project was completed by connecting one lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs). A modified strategy to implement BharatNet has been approved by Cabinet on 19.07.2017, which provides an optimal mix of media to connect GPs, implementation by State-led Model, Private Sector, and Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Model; laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs. As on 04.07.2019, a total of 1,21,416 GPs (including Block Headquarters) have been made Service Ready. The State-wise status of BharatNet is attached at **Annexure-I**.

The delay in the initial implementation of the project was on account of:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project as the work on the project began in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Only one media that is underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues.

Since May 2016, with the constitution of the following committees, the issues are being resolved timely:

- i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- iii) State Committee under Chief General Manager (CGM), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for resolution of State level issues.

(c) As per the information provided by the Vigilance Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the details are given in **Annexure-II**.

BharatNet status as on 04.07.2019

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	Service Ready GPs (Including BHQs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1502
2	Arunachal Pradesh	164
3	Andaman & Nicobar	0
4	Assam	1622
5	Bihar	6216
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	4088
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	18
10	Gujarat	6219
11	Haryana	6188
12	Himachal Pradesh	241
13	Jammu & Kashmir	905
14	Jharkhand	2409
15	Karnataka	6166
16	Kerala	1129
17	Lakshadweep	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	12725
19	Maharashtra	15173
20	Manipur	325
21	Meghalaya	192
22	Mizoram	41
23	Nagaland	123
24	Odisha	3660
25	Puducherry	101
26	Punjab	8806
27	Rajasthan	8655
28	Sikkim	17
29	Tamil Nadu	0
30	Telangana	2047
31	Tripura	549
32	Uttar Pradesh	28405
33	Uttarakhand	1518
34	West Bengal	2178
Total		121416

Details of the Complaints about irregularities in implementation of BharatNet:

S.No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of complaints	Action taken/ being taken :
1	Meghalaya	2	Under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
2	Uttar Pradesh	6	All the 6 complaints have been disposed of
3	Madhya Pradesh	1	Complaint has been disposed of
4	Delhi	3	2 complaints have been disposed of and 1 complaint is under examination
5	Bihar	1	Advisory sent to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) & RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel)
6	Maharashtra	2	Under investigation
