

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2910  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**INFORMATION TO FARMERS**

†2910. **SHRI RAMESH CHAND BIND:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided internet and Wi-Fi facilities in all the villages across the country to provide information related to the agriculture sector to farmers and update them about the new developments related to this sector; and
- (b) if so, the measures/actions taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) & (b) Internet is being currently accessed mainly through mobile wireless technologies, which at present cover more than 95% of population of the country. As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2019, it is estimated that out of total 5,97,618 inhabited villages, including Gram Panchayats (as per the Census 2011) in the country, about 5,69,897 are covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in remaining villages is being provided by the Telecom Service Providers and the Government in a phased manner.

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. As on 28.02.2020, by laying 4,24,299 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 1,50,029 GPs have been connected, out of which 1,34,906 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready. In addition, 1787 GPs have been provided connectivity through satellite media. A total of 1,36,693 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile Connectivity through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband access technology is to be provided in all the Gram Panchayats. In the 1.23 lakh GPs (approx.) of BharatNet Phase-I, the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services has been assigned to Government of Rajasthan, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), etc. In the 1407 GPs of BharatNet Phase-II, the provisioning of connectivity over satellite media, along with Wi-Fi services, has been assigned to BSNL. As of February 2020, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 Gram Panchayats (GPs) and out of them, services are being provided in 18,683 GPs.

The broadband/internet connectivity, provided under the above mentioned initiatives, can be used to provide information related to the agriculture sector to farmers and to update them about the new developments related to this sector.

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