

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1864
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.07.2019

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

1864: SHRIMATI RANJAN BEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: -

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide digital connectivity to every State and district under Digital India Programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the step taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide digital connectivity to Vadodara district of Gujarat;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the said district is likely to be digitally connected; and
- (e) In not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): To accelerate telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas across the country, following projects are being implemented by the Government:

- (i) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. Under this project, broadband infrastructure is being established which will be accessible on non-discriminatory basis, to provide affordable broadband services in rural areas. As on 13.06.2019, a total of 1,28,870 GPs have been connected by laying 3,37,515 km OFC. A total of 1,20,341 GPs have been made service ready
- (ii) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 3465 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity. Under Phase-I of LWE, mobile towers have been set up at 2343 locations
- (iii) A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages, along with National Highways and to strengthen transmission network
- (iv) Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (v) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation upto 4 Gbps for Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (vi) Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (vii) Augmentation of Satellite bandwidth from 318 Mbps to 1.71 Gbps for Lakshadweep Islands

(c) to (e): In Vadodara district of Gujarat, as on 13th June 2019, out of 524 Gram Panchayats covered under BharatNet project, 388 GPs have been connected by OFC and 304 GPs have been made service ready.
