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Title : Demand to expedite the implementation of BharatNet Phase II in the State of Tamil Nadu.

DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this Government, through you, to the fact that BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband/internet connectivity to all the gram panchayats in this country.

This visionary thought was initiated by UPA Government in 2012. As part of BharatNet project, the last-mile connectivity through WiFi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided to gram panchayats in the country to access broadband services under the Universal Service Obligation Fund Scheme. 25,000 public WiFi hotspots are being set up, using the infrastructure of telephone exchanges of BSNL in rural areas of the country.

As per available Government data, as on October, 2019, WiFi hotspots have been set up in 24,118 rural exchanges and out of them, WiFi services are being provided at 23,000 rural exchanges in different States.

In the modified strategy approved by the Union Government, Digital Communication Commission has approved the implementation of BharatNet Phase II in the State of Tamil Nadu. BharatNet Phase II was supposed to be completed by 31.03.2019. However, till date, not a single WiFi hotspot has been installed.

माननीय अध्यक्ष:

श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को डॉ. ए. चैल्ला कुमार द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।