

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 861
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF BHARATNET PROJECT

861. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 22 per cent of Gram Panchayats in the country have been provided with broadband connectivity under the BharatNet Project;
- (b) if so, the problems in implementation of the Project and by when the targets would be achieved; and
- (c) how many Gram Panchayats have been covered in North East India and how many are yet to be covered under the BharatNet Project?

ANSWER

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

- (a) In the Phase-I of BharatNet to connect 1,00,000 GPs, as on 17.12.2017, Optical Fibre connectivity has been provided to 1,06,585 GPs (i.e. all the GPs of Phase-I) by laying 2,50,197 km Optical Fibre Cable and 87,836 GPs (i.e. about 87.84% of total GPs of Phase-I) have been made Service Ready.
- (b) The delay in the implementation of the project was on account of:
 - (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project; 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 OFC to cover GPs.
 - (iii) Right of Way (RoW) issues.
 - (iv) Inadequate quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to provide broadband connectivity to GPs.

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

- i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, DoT.
- ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF.
- iii) State Committee under Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL for resolution of State level issues.

The project (Phase-I & Phase-II) is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

- (c) As on 17.12.2017, out of the total 8254 GPs in the 8 States of the North-East India, Optical Fibre connectivity has been provided to 3,649 GPs by laying 10,288 km Optical Fibre Cable and 1,910 GPs have been made Service Ready. The remaining 6344 GPs are targeted to be covered with broadband connectivity by March 2019.
