

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 865  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**INTERNET CONNECTIVITY TO ALL GRAM PANCHAYATS**

865. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target set in early 2015 to provide internet connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in three years is not likely to be achieved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for delay; and
- (c) the expected time-limit to connect all the Gram Panchayats in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government approved the BharatNet project (then called National Optical Fibre Network) on 25.10.2011. The Cabinet, on July 19, 2017, approved a modified strategy to provide broadband connectivity in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) by March, 2019. 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.
- (c) The project (Phase-I & Phase-II) is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.

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