

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 873
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

COMPLETION OF FIRST PHASE OF BHARATNET

873. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:
SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the first phase of the National Optical Fibre Network will be completed by the end of this year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that BharatNet has now reached to 83,000 Gram Panchayats; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that it is imperative to create a fibre first programme where Government as well as private sector can join hands to achieve the objective of doubling the reach of telecom fibre network in the country by 2020, if so, the steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The first phase of the BharatNet (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network) is targeted to be completed for 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) by the end of this year.
- (b) As on 17.12.2017, optical fibre connectivity has been provided to 1,06,585 GPs by laying 2,50,197 km Optical Fibre Cable and 87,836 GPs have been made service ready under the BharatNet project.
- (c) The first Phase of BharatNet is being implemented through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and RailTel. Government approved a modified strategy to implement the BharatNet project on 19.07.2017, to connect remaining GPs in Phase-II. Under Phase II, connectivity will be provided to balance GPs in the country by March, 2019 through an optimal mix of underground/ aerial OFC, radio and satellite media. The implementation of the Phase-II is proposed to be done through States and private sector, in addition to CPSUs.
