

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1188  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018**

**LAYING OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET IN VILLAGES**

1188. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for the BharatNet programme (earlier called National Optical Fibre Network), ` 34,000 crore was disbursed to lay high-speed internet in 1,50,000 villages by 2019;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that only 67,271 villages have been covered till now and the Government needs to double its efforts in one year to reach the target; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for the failure of the above scheme to adhere to its stipulated timeline and the steps proposed to be taken to correct the same?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir. As on 23.07.2018, Rs. 16286 crore has been disbursed for BharatNet programme.
- (b) & (c) No, Sir. As on 22.07.2018, a total of 1,13,355 Gram Panchayats have been made Service Ready.

For expediting the implementation of the project, the Cabinet approved a modified strategy for BharatNet on July 19, 2017. The salient features of this are:

- a) Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite) to be used to connect GPs.
- b) Implementation of Project by State Model, CPSU Model and Private Sector Model.
- c) Laying of fresh fibre from Block to GP (in Phase I incremental fibre from FPOI is being laid)
- d) Dark fibre to be available at the GP level for leasing out to Service Providers.
- e) Operation and maintenance of the network for the lifetime of the project.
- f) Model of provision of services at GP level.

According to the modified strategy, implementation of the project is being taken up.

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