

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.661  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**USO FUNDS FOR LAYING OF OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES UNDER  
BHARATNET PHASE-2 PROJECT**

661. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether USO Funds (USOF) are being spent on laying of optical fibre cables under Phase-2 of BharatNet project at an escalated capital outlay of Rs.13,461 crore;
- (b) whether the BharatNet Phase 2 project for laying 6 lakh kilometres fibre cable is targeted to be completed by March, 2019;
- (c) whether, in hindsight, it took more than four years to lay 3 lakh kilometres of optical fibre cables under Phase-I of the BharatNet project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs has been completed. The Union Cabinet on 19.07.2017 approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) GPs in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. As part of BharatNet Phase-II, connectivity to GPs on optical fibre cables has been approved by the Cabinet at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,743 Crore.
- (b) As per the revised strategy approved by Cabinet, BharatNet Phase-II is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.
- (c) & (d) The implementation of the BharatNet project gained momentum in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of year 2014. As on 03.02.2019, more than 3 lakh km optical fibre cable has been laid in Phase-I of the BharatNet project.

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