

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1983
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

SUFFICIENCY OF FIBRE NETWORKS

1983 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present availability of fibre networks in the country is sufficient for the increasing demand for better bandwidth, resilient and high volume connectivity;
- (b) whether the present framework for 5G puts pressure on the existing resources for fibre infrastructure;
- (c) whether Government is aware that telcos have invested heavily in building cross-country cables but there is a significantly lower development of infrastructure that connects the major cities across States; and
- (d) whether steps are being carried out to improve fibre availability beyond metro cities?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) As on 30.09.2022, a total of 35.5 Lakh Route Kms Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has already been laid in the country, which will facilitate the increasing demand for better bandwidth, resilient and high volume connectivity. Optical Fibre Cable has the enormous capacity to handle the 5G connectivity. Further, to facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 on 17th August 2022. These amendments pave the way for deployment of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on existing street infrastructure.

(c) & (d) Government as well as Telecom companies have laid optical fibre cable not only for cross country but also to strengthen urban and remote area connectivity. Major cities and towns across the States/ UTs are adequately connected. BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide fibre connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The scope of BharatNet project has been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country.
