

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1498
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2023**

OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES

**1498 DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:
SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of cities in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh which have been connected by Optical Fibre Cables (OFCs);
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to connect rural and remote parts of these States with OFCs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the present status thereof; and
- (d) whether any measures are being taken by Government to create a network to connect all the Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh with OFCs and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity in the country has improved significantly over the last 10 years. Total Optical Fibre laid increased from 10.62 lakhs km in 2014 to 38.86 lakhs km in September 2023 including in State of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. All the 44 cities in the State of Maharashtra and the 43 cities in the State of Madhya Pradesh are connected with Optical Fibre Cables.

BharatNet project has reached a total of 2.07 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country including in the State of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Relevant state-wise status is available on the website of the Department.

The scope of the BharatNet project has been expanded to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh crores as follows:

- i) Upgradation of existing BharatNet network.
- ii) Focus on utilization of the network through BharatNet Udyamis i.e. village level entrepreneurs.

- iii) Operation and Maintenance of the entire network through professional agencies for ten years.
- iv) Dedicated Network Operation centre.
- v) Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
- vi) To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections.
