

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2025**

NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK

2264 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CAG audit report found the quality of optical fibre cables laid by Bharat Broadband Network Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in National Optical Fibre Network Phase-1 to be substandard;
- (b) whether the depth of optical fibre cable laid in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan is approximately only one foot beneath the surface;
- (c) whether a CSC was formed by department officials to award work to their favourites and a sum of ₹2,500 crore was approved by way of Telecom Commission; and
- (d) whether the CSC has made the quality of work substandard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) No CAG audit report on BharatNet has been received in this Ministry till date.
- (b) Does not arise, in view of the (a) above.
- (c) & (d) CSC e- Governances Services India limited (CSC), is a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is the implementing agency to deliver e-Services through common services centers. An estimated cost of Rs 3,960 crore was approved by Digital Communications Commission (erstwhile Telecom Commission) for various Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) projects to be implemented by the CSC.
