

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 2017**

UNDERGROUND CABLES

† 5236. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to lay underground cables in the entire country for the purpose of communication and information technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State-wise details of the total expenditure incurred in this regard during the current financial year;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any norms to invite tenders in this regard; and
- (e) 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) & (b) BharatNet is being implemented for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs is being implemented currently. Connectivity to GPs in BharatNet Phase-I is being provided by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). On 14.12.2016, the Telecom Commission approved a revised implementation strategy with Optimal mix of media i.e. OFC (underground & aerial), radio & satellite to be used to connect remaining around 1,50,000 GPs in BharatNet Phase-II.

(c) The state-wise details of the total expenditure incurred in this regard during the current financial year (till February, 2017) are given in **Annexure-I**.

(d) & (e) Phase-I is being implemented through three CPSUs, namely BSNL, PGCIL and RailTel. Tender processes followed by these CPSUs are as per the respective CPSU tender procedures. Work of laying of Optical Fibre Cable and procurement of equipment is being executed by the three CPSUs and BBNL, which is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to implement BharatNet through open tender.

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Annexure-I		
The State-wise details of the total expenditure incurred under BharatNet project during the current financial year 2016-17 (till Feb, 2017)		
S No.	State	Amount in Rs. (in Crore)
1	Kerala	0
2	Assam	53.58
3	Uttarakhand	205.55
4	Punjab	58.82
5	Haryana	13.28
6	Madhya Pradesh	300.91
7	UP	89.10
8	Chhattisgarh	187.49
9	Karnataka	1349.00
10	Rajasthan	57.77
11	A&N	0
12	Bihar	23.02
13	J & K	14.40
14	Maharashtra	356.98
15	West Bengal	71.71
16	Sikkim	0
17	Chandigarh	0
18	Lakshadweep	0
19	Andhra Pradesh	0
20	Telengana	205.44
21	Odisha	
22	Jharkhand	
23	Himachal Pradesh	52.51
24	Pudducherry	247.46
25	North East	
26	Gujarat, D&N, Daman &Diu	
27	Tamilnadu	0
	Total	3287.05
