

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2017**

Laying of Optical Fibre Cable under Bharat Net Project

2963. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has directed the States to lay optical fibre cable lines over electric poles instead of laying them underground as initially envisaged under Bharat Net Project; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) On 19.07.2017, the Government approved a modified implementation strategy for BharatNet. The remaining 1,50,000 Gram Panchayats (approx.) under Phase-II are to be connected by using an optimal mix of media, i.e., aerial Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) on existing electricity poles, radio and satellite for speedier deployment; and underground OFC (as being done for Phase-I). The implementation of the project is proposed through States and States' agencies, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), and Private Sector agencies.

Under the State model, the States, with the capacity to design and implement BharatNet Phase II, are envisioned to be the implementing agency, and will undertake the responsibility of execution of underground, overhead laying of OFC and radio.
