

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2583  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

**BROADBAND AS A UTILITY**

2583. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Telengana has requested the Ministry to make broadband as a utility in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto; and
- (c) if not, the measures which have been taken by the Government towards broadband penetration in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Proposal to make broadband as a utility in the country is not under consideration of the Government. However, BharatNet, is being implemented to provide broadband services in all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country in phases. Phase-I, has been implemented to connect 1 lakh Gram Panchayats with optical fibre connectivity. The implementation of the Phase-II is being done through States and private sector, in addition to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), as well as the connectivity is to be provided through an optimal mix of underground/ aerial OFC, radio and satellite media. Telecom Commission in its meeting on 29.09.2017 approved a State led model in the State of Telangana to implement BharatNet project phase-II in 6,657 GPs with an estimated cost of Rs. 1,243.23 crore.

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