

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JUNE, 2019**

FIBRE NETWORK

†*79. **SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only about 25 per cent of mobile towers are connected to fibre network in the country whereas this figure is more than 70 per cent in developed nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to deal with the situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 79 FOR 26TH JUNE, 2019 REGARDING “FIBRE NETWORK”.

(a) Various Telecom Service Providers fiberise their network at any specific tower site. As per details provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) about 31% of TSP sites have been connected to fibre network in the country. With respect to developed nations, some technical reports indicate that percentage of TSP sites connected to fibre is higher.

(b) to (d) The infrastructure and equipment used for providing mobile communications, belong to various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the decisions regarding providing connectivity to the TSP sites through fibre or through other means is taken based on various techno-commercial considerations including network capacity required at that particular physical site (tower).

Further, Government is facilitating the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for laying fibre by means of addressing Right of Way (RoW) challenges and creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardisation of costs and timelines; and removal of barriers to approvals.

Under BharatNet, which is fully funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) of the Government of India and is one of the biggest rural telecom projects of the world, as on 30.05.2019, 3,33,195 km Optical Fibre Cable has been laid connecting 1,28,118 Gram Panchayats by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
