

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2440
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2023**

NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK PROJECT

**2440. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the targets, completion timeline and current status of implementation of the National Optical Fibre Network Project in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the service providers that have signed up in Andhra Pradesh to access the National Optical Fibre Network Project;
- (c) the details of the steps taken to ensure optimum use of broadband and wifi-services especially in rural areas;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any contingency plans to ensure timely repairs in case of breakage in the network line due to environmental or man-made causes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fibre Project) is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country including Andhra Pradesh. The scope is now extended to connect all villages of the country, which are more than 6 lakh. Under Phase-I, in Andhra Pradesh, all of the planned 1681 GPs have been made service ready. The Phase-II of BharatNet is being implemented under the State-led model by Andhra Pradesh State FibreNet Limited (APSFL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of State Government and, 3513 GPs out of the 11,254 planned GPs have been made service ready. Further, 12 GPs out of 20 planned GPs have been made service ready through Satellite connectivity. The timeline for completion of BharatNet project is 2025.

(b) & (c) The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband and wifi services in rural areas. A revenue sharing agreement with APSFL for utilization of BharatNet Phase-I infrastructure has been signed. Further, high speed Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections are being provided by BSNL under the BharatNet Udyami scheme on the Phase-I infrastructure. For BharatNet Phase-II, being implemented in State-led model, State government is responsible for utilization of BharatNet.

(d) & (e) BharatNet network is monitored through centralized Network Operating Centre (NOC) to ensure timely repairs of fibre cut and equipment faults. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) based Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for BharatNet Phase-I has been entrusted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) through professional agencies. For the O&M of Phase-II of BharatNet, the respective Implementing Agencies are responsible for maintenance of the network.
