

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 998  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**AVAILABILITY OF FIBRE NETWORK**

**998. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present availability of fibre network in the country is sufficient in view of the increasing demand for better bandwidth and high volume connectivity, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the present framework for 5G puts pressure on the existing resources for fibre infrastructure and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any step is being taken to improve fibre availability beyond Metro cities such as Aligarh, etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) As on 31.12.2022, a total of 36.3 Lakh Route Kms Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has already been laid in the country, which will facilitate the increasing demand for better bandwidth and high volume connectivity. Optical Fibre Cable has the enormous capacity to handle the 5G connectivity. Further, to facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022. These amendments pave the way for deployment of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on existing street infrastructure.

(c) & (d) Government as well as Telecom companies have laid optical fibre cable to strengthen urban and remote area connectivity. Metro cities and cities beyond Metro cities including Aligarh are adequately connected. BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide fibre connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The scope of BharatNet project has been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country.

\*\*\*\*\*