

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 253  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES**

**\*253. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of cities in Uttar Pradesh which have been connected by Optical Fibre Cables (OFCs);
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to connect rural and remote parts of Uttar Pradesh with Optical Fibre Cables;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the present status thereof;
- (d) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh on Optical Fibre Cables; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 FOR 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023 REGARDING “OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES.”**

(a) to (e) Telecom connectivity in Country has improved significantly in last 10 years. The total number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Station) have increased from 6.49 Lakh in March-2014 to 25.42 Lakh in March-2023. Total mobile subscribers have increased from 90.45 Cr in March 2014 to 114.35 Cr. in June 2023. Internet subscribers have increased from 25.15 Cr. in March-2014 to 88.12 Cr. in March-2023.

The Government has taken numerous initiatives for faster rollout of telecom infrastructure including laying of Optical Fibre Cable. These initiatives include launch of Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal and issuance of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016 as amended from time to time. As a result, the Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity in the country has improved significantly over the last 10 years. In Uttar Pradesh, total Optical Fibre laid increased from 1.07 lakhs km in 2014 to 3.88 lakhs km in September 2023. Further, all the 82 cities/district HQs and 44,982 Gram Panchayats are connected with Optical Fibre Cables.

BharatNet project has reached a total of 2.07 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country. The scope of the BharatNet project has been expanded to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh crores as follows:

- i) Upgradation of existing BharatNet network.
- ii) Focus on utilization of the network through BharatNet Udyamis i.e. village level entrepreneurs.
- iii) Operation and Maintenance of the entire network.
- iv) Dedicated Network Operation centre.
- v) Expanding scope to connect all inhabited villages.
- vi) To provide 1.5 crore home fibre connections.

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