

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2835  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES**

**2835. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has planned to increase optical fibre coverage in the country to facilitate the increasing demand for better bandwidth and high-volume connectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that huge allocation has been done in this regard and there are plans to connect all the panchayats and villages in the Country;
- (c) the details of the optical fibre cables laid in Bihar especially in Gopalganj so far along with the total cost of the project and the funds allocated thereon;
- (d) the details of the timeline fixed for achieving the target, if any, in this regard;
- (e) the details of the number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Gopalganj, Bihar which have been connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots till date; and
- (f) the reasons for a number of GPs not being connected to the said services in Bihar especially in Gopalganj till date?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (f) Optical Fiber connectivity has been provided under BharatNet program to more than 2.07 lakh Gram Panchayats. Government has recently amended the BharatNet program 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.

Relevant State/UT wise details of BharatNet are available on DoT website.

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