

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2741
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2019**

OUTREACH OF FIXED LINES

**†2741. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the outreach of fixed line based on optical fibre in the country is quite less in comparison to developed countries and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has made any effort to extend the outreach of this facility and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any accountability to expedite this work and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No authentic information is available to the Government on the outreach of fixed lines based on optical fiber in other countries.
- (b) In order to increase the broadband adoptability, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has published Centralized Right of Way (RoW) Policy 2016, which establishes the process for laying and maintenance of underground cable, grant of permission by appropriate authority, dispute resolution etc. Further, National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP), 2018 has emphasized on establishment of fiber network for expanding mobile and broadband connectivity across the country to create robust digital communications infrastructure.
- (c) Yes, Sir. DoT has already started monitoring the adaptation of centralized RoW policy & optical fiber penetration in the telecom networks, under Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) program.
