

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 688
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2021**

DETAILS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

688. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of service providers who provide optical fiber high speed internet connections in rural areas of the country; specially in Rajasthan State;
- (b) the reasons for absence of optical fiber high speed internet services in rural and interior areas of the country; and
- (c) remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the extant licensing framework, Access Service Providers and Internet Service Providers can provide optical fiber based high speed internet connections in their respective License Service Area. Service area to be covered and the type of technology to be used for delivering high speed internet services are decided by each licensee based on its techno commercial assessment. As on 30-9-2021, 321 licenses for Access Service and 2254 licenses for Internet Service are working in the country; out of which 15 licenses for Access Service and 297 licenses for Internet Service are working in the State of Rajasthan.

(c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs. As on 01.11.2021, by laying about 5.52 lakh km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), around 1.62 lakh GPs have been made Service Ready on OFC media in the country. In Rajasthan, by laying about 30,156 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), around 8739 GPs have been made Service Ready on OFC media.
