GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 391
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH MARCH, 2022

OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE

*391. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
      SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the number of villages connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), year-wise from 2014 till date;

(b)   the details of phase-wise completion of BharatNet including the original timelines for completion, actual dates of completion and current status of each phase;

(c)   the details and the number of villages yet to be connected by OFC, State-wise; and

(d)   the annual pace of laying OFC from 2014 till date?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 391 FOR 30TH MARCH, 2022 REGARDING 'OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE'.

(a)   BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity through an optimal mix of media (OFC/Radio/Satellite) to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. The year-wise number of GPs, made Service Ready on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), is given in **Annexure-I**.

(b)   BharatNet project (earlier known as National Optical Fiber Network) was originally approved by the cabinet on 25.10.2011 with the project timeline as two years from the date of approval. Thereafter, the target to connect 1 lakh GPs of Phase-I was revised to November 2017. The Phase-I was completed in December 2017.

Subsequently, the Cabinet approved a modified strategy for BharatNet on 19.07.2017 with the project timeline as March 2019 for all the Gram Panchayats of the country. As on 28.02.2022, total 1,72,361 GPs have been made Service Ready under BharatNet project in the country.

The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country, with the timeline as 2025.

(c)   Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity is envisaged to be provided through an optimal mix of media (OFC/Radio/Satellite) to GPs/Villages. The State/UT-wise details of the GPs/Villages, yet to be made Service Ready, are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d)   The details of year-wise OFC laying (cumulative) are given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 391 for answer on 30.03.2022
Year-wise details of Service Ready GPs and OFC laid (from 2014 to Feb 2022)

Year	No. of Service Ready GPs (cumulative)		Total (cumulative) Service Ready GPs (OFC + Satellite)	OFC laid (km) (cumulative)
	on OFC	**on Satellite**		
August 2014	59	0	59	2044
March 2015	441	0	441	26732
March 2016	6547	0	6547	106979
March 2017	17931	0	17931	199935
March 2018	106285	0	106285	269749
March 2019	117903	616	118519	317972
March 2020	136261	2148	138409	431160
March 2021	154286	3838	158124	516377
February 2022	168010	4351	172361	567941

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 391 for answer on 30.03.2022
State-wise details of number of GPs/villages yet to be made Service Ready

S. No.	State	Total Villages (including GPs)	Service Ready GPs/Villages	GPs/Villages yet to be made Service Ready
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	367	24	343
2	Andhra Pradesh	17313	1716	15597
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5545	769	4776
4	Assam	27912	1508	26404
5	Bihar	40926	8302	32624
6	Chandigarh	12	12	0
7	Chhattisgarh	19992	8856	11136
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	101	38	63
9	Delhi	222	0	222
10	Goa	396	0	396
11	Gujarat	18148	14119	4029
12	Haryana	6929	6082	847
13	Himachal Pradesh	19153	406	18747
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6845	1076	5769
15	Jharkhand	31141	4254	26887
16	Karnataka	32050	6083	25967
17	Kerala	1333	978	355
18	Ladakh	243	190	53
19	Lakshadweep	24	9	15
20	Madhya Pradesh	52497	17340	35157
21	Maharashtra	43681	21977	21704
22	Manipur	3811	1436	2375
23	Meghalaya	6797	651	6146
24	Mizoram	864	452	412
25	Nagaland	1626	232	1394
26	Odisha	51254	6617	44637
27	Puducherry	117	98	19
28	Punjab	13262	12668	594
29	Rajasthan	46343	8770	37573
30	Sikkim	414	24	390
31	Tamil Nadu	17287	0	17287
32	Telangana	12769	6886	5883
33	Tripura	1021	723	298
34	Uttar Pradesh	103239	36090	67149
35	Uttarakhand	15942	1649	14293
36	West Bengal	39188	2326	36862
	Total	**638764**	**172361**	**466403**

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