

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 121  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**OPTICAL FIBRE**

121. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:  
SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken to connect all the villages of the country with optical fibre by 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of funds likely to be spend on it, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government plans to provide mobile connectivity in villages which are located in strategic and border areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the timeline by which the said connectivity is likely to be provided in the aforesaid areas?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. The scope of BharatNet has now been extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs. On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country covering about 3.61 lakh villages, and a Request for Proposal (RFP) was floated on 20.07.2021 for implementation of the same.

The estimated maximum Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), approved for the above PPP model, is Rs. 19,041 crore and the details of the same are given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) Mobile services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered villages of the country, including those located in strategic and border areas. The Government has the following schemes with USOF funding in this regard:

- (i) Under 354 Uncovered Villages Scheme, border villages of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and other priority areas are included.
- (ii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region.
- (iii) Schemes for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and Aspirational Districts.

**Annexure-I**

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 121 for answer on 02.02.2022

**Details of the estimated maximum Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for PPP model of BharatNet**

<b>Package</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Total Villages (including GPs)</b>	<b>VGF (Rs Cr.)</b>
I	Kerala and Karnataka	33383	2225
II	Uttar Pradesh (East)	78011	2895
III	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25228	1053
IV	Rajasthan	46343	2441
V	Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh	39344	2589
VI	West Bengal	39188	1277
VII	North East Region (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	19664	3453
VIII	Assam	27912	781
IX	Madhya Pradesh	52497	2327
	<b>Total</b>	<b>361570</b>	<b>19041</b>

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