

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 516  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

**DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS**

516. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of buget provision made and utilised to rollout telecom infrastructure for defence communications network to imporve access to the people in rural and remote areas;
- (b) whether prices of the Optic Fibre Cables have increased manifold, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the action taken to maintain fair pricing mechanism on the telecom procurements?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Network for Spectrum(NFS) project is being executed for providing dedicated Optical Fibre (OF) Cable based network for releasing of spectrum by Defence Forces. Under this project, complete Telecom Network (OF Cable, Transmission Equipments, Microwave, Satellite, Encryptors, End Point Equipments) is being implemented covering all Defence establishments for exclusive use of Defence forces. Based on the requirement of the project, budget of Rs.24,664 Cr has been provisioned and out of this budget Rs.19,185.55 Cr has been utilised till date.

For improving communication in rural and remote areas, BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 04.07.2022, a total number of 1,77,550 GPs are made Service Ready in the country. Now, the scope of BharatNet project has been extended upto villages beyond GPs in the country. The timeline of the BharatNet project is 2025. Total disbursed funds under BharatNet Project as on 31.03.2022 is Rs.29475.093 Cr.

(b) As per the rates discovered in the latest tender invited by BSNL during the current year 2022, the rates of 24F un-armoured and 24F/48F armoured cables, have been found to be higher as compared to corresponding rates discovered in an earlier tender, invited by BSNL in the year 2020.

The rates of main raw material used in manufacturing of these cables and other production costs have increased during the period, which has led to increase in rates quoted for the tender of cables.

(c) Tender conditions in DoT and its PSUs are kept non-restrictive. Tendering procedure using transparent e-tender process, followed by e-reverse auction, are conducted for achieving fair & competitive prices.

\*\*\*\*\*