

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2024**

FIBRE NETWORK EXTENSION OF MTNL AND BSNL

†310 **SHRI SATPAL BRAHAMCHARI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the fibre network infrastructure of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country by incorporating youth and start-ups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in connecting the network up to far-flung areas of the country;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Fibre network extension work of MTNL is slow in comparison to other private network providers;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to accelerate the network extension of MTNL and BSNL in the country; and
- (e) the percentage of coverage of the present telecommunication in Haryana especially in various panchayats and villages of the Sonapat Parliamentary Constituency?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (e) BSNL and MTNL have laid more than 8.96 Lakh route kilometers of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network in the country. In addition, more than 6.89 Lakh kilometers OFC has been laid in the rural and remote areas of the country under BharatNet Project. BSNL/MTNL are regularly expanding and upgrading their OFC networks.

BSNL has provided 38.93 lakhs Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband connections on their network as on 30.04.2024. BSNL is also, providing FTTH connections using BharatNet in villages/Gram Panchayats involving around 6,000 BharatNet Udhaymies (BNUs).

To encourage start-up companies, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) etc. for testing and developing their innovative products and solutions, BSNL has finalized Proof of Concept (POC) policy. This policy is also expected to promote Research and Development of Indigenous telecom products and solutions in India.

Government has given three revival packages to BSNL/MTNL amounting to more than 3.2 Lakh Cr. As part of the revival strategy, BSNL/MTNL is expanding fiber network and mobile network across the country.

In Haryana including Sonapat Parliamentary Constituency, all the villages (100%) have 4G mobile connectivity. Further, in Haryana, out of total 6,256 Gram Panchayats, 97.22% Gram Panchayats have been connected on OFC. In Sonapat Parliamentary Constituency, out of total 516 Gram Panchayats, 98.64% Gram Panchayats have been connected on OFC.
