

- Poor availability of electricity supply.
- Faults due to cut in optical fiber/copper cables due to road widening works etc.
- Delayed maintenance and repair due to law and order issues.

The network parameters for QoS achieved during the last three months as against the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI are mentioned below:

Landline network parameters for Jharkhand circle

Parameter		Benchmark Achievements		
		March, 2014	April, 2014	May, 2014
Fault incidences per 100 subscribers per month	≤5%	2.56	2.47	2.51
% Fault repaired by next day	≥90%	98.02	98.7	96.37
% Fault repaired within 3 days in urban area	100%	100	100	100
% Fault repaired within 5 days in rural area	100%	100	100	100
Meantime to repair	≤8Hrs.	6.07	5.79	5.88

(c) BSNL has taken the following steps to ensure speedy restoration of faults:

- Co-ordination with other Government agencies to prevent faults due to damage of cables.
- Regular patrolling of important cable routes to prevent cable damages.
- Monitoring the Fault Repair Service System for prompt fault clearance.

Broadband network coverage to gram panchayats

419. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be a great delay in providing broadband network coverage to the targeted 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats in the financial year 2014-15, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to augment the project to reach the expected targets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) scheme. The scheme envisages connecting all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be created for the purpose.

The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012. BBNL is getting the project executed through 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

It was decided that before starting the project at national level, some pilots be conducted so that the learning on ground level be incorporated in the implementation of project at national level. Accordingly, BBNL implemented 3 Pilot Projects in Arain block, District Ajmer, Rajasthan State (by BSNL-30 GPs), Parvada block, District Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (by PGCIL-14 GPs) and Panisagar block, District North Tripura, Tripura State (by Railtel-15 GPs). The pilot projects comprising 3 Blocks and 59 GPs were completed on 15.10.2012 with 100 Mbps connectivity to each GP.

BBNL entrusted the task of survey work to the 3 CPSUs (BSNL, Railtel and PGCIL). This preliminary exercise was undertaken to ascertain the actual length of incremental OFC required for NOFN network. Survey work has been completed for over 2,30,000 Gram Panchayats and BBNL has issued Technical Sanction for about 1,81,000 Gram Panchayats.

Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India, concerned State Governments and BBNL for free Right of Way (RoW) for laying of OFC have been signed with all States and UTs except Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep.

Procurement orders for Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and electronic transmission equipment Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) have been finalized. The three CPSUs viz. BSNL, Railtel and PGCIL have awarded work in 210 Blocks for trenching and laying of OFC.

NOFN project is being implemented in a phased manner as under and is likely to be completed by March, 2017:

- 50,000 GPs by March, 2015 (Phase-I)
- 1,00,000 GPs by March, 2016 (Phase-II)
- Balance GPs by March, 2017 (Phase-III)

Project is to be executed in a phased manner to foster competition and to learn and improve from experiences of project implementation. Multi-pronged strategy for execution of work is being adopted for accelerated implementation of the project.