

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) According to available data, in Uttar Pradesh, out of total 97,814 villages; 149 villages; in Uttarakhand, out of total 15,745 villages, 1,876 villages; and in Madhya Pradesh, out of total 51,929 villages, 5,893 villages do not have mobile connectivity. States are verifying the list of villages not connected by mobile services.

(b) Mobile connectivity to inaccessible, remote and rural areas is being provided in phased manner and according to availability of funds.

#### **NOFN for towns**

4066. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats that have been covered under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) in the last three years;

(b) the targets for laying down of optical fibre cables under the Digital India Programme; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to cover town areas under NOFN programme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Trenching and laying has been completed for 2,24,340 Km (1,00,934 GPs), Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) has been laid for 2,02,675 Km (90,027 GPs) and 17,918 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been provided with broadband connectivity in the last three years under BharatNet/NOFN Project.

(b) Connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet Project is scheduled to be provided by December, 2018.

(c) BharatNet as approved is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in the country. It does not cover town areas.

#### **Recruitment Rules of Department of Posts**

4067. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoPT has issued model Recruitment Rules (RR) for various posts of Accounts cadre in Department of Posts without seeking feedback/suggestions from stakeholders, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the model RR include employees of operation department in violation of existing rules;