

**Statement-II**

*Telecom Service Area-wise Rural Internet Subscriber Base as on 31st March, 2017*  
(Subscribers in Millions)

Telecom Service Area	Rural Subscriber Base
Andhra Pradesh	12.10
Assam	4.25
Bihar	11.91
Delhi	0.69
Gujarat	8.26
Haryana	3.65
Himachal Pradesh	2.10
Jammu and Kashmir	1.87
Karnataka	6.37
Kerala	6.72
Kolkata	0.76
Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh	7.70
Maharashtra	11.75
Mumbai	0.50
North East	2.22
Odisha	4.93
Punjab	4.67
Rajasthan	8.71
Tamil Nadu	8.08
Uttar Pradesh (East)	13.41
Uttar Pradesh (West)	7.10
West Bengal	8.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136.55</b>

**Repaying of loan amount by MTNL**

2302. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL has decided to pay back all its loan amount to the financial institutions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has already paid a sum of ₹ 125 crore recently to Punjab and Sind Bank, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is making the payment to the banks as per the schedule of payment in the loan agreement.

(b) MTNL has made payment of ₹ 125 crores to the Indian Overseas Bank on 29.06.2017 as per schedule of payment in the loan agreement.

**Optical fibres laid under NOFN**

2303. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed laying of optical fibre network in all Gram Panchayats in the country under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) programme;

(b) if so, details thereof including length of fibre network laid in each State;

(c) whether optical fibre cable already laid in underground or overground;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh has been included in NOFN;

(e) whether Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh is also laying optical fibre in all villages and has established a separate company known as 'Andhra Pradesh State Fibrenet Limited' for the purpose; and

(f) if so, details thereof and funding of the programme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government has completed the laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in 1,00,299 GPs in the country with a total length of 2,21,925 km. under the Phase I of BharatNet. The State-wise details are given in the Statement [Refer to Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 2301. Part (a) to (d)].

(d) Andhra Pradesh is included in BharatNet project for providing connectivity to Gram Panchayats.

(e) and (f) Andhra Pradesh State FibreNet Limited has laid overhead OFC to provide connectivity to GPs with Mandals from its own resources.

Andhra Pradesh State FibreNet Limited has formulated and submitted a proposal to Department of Telecom to connect GPs. No decision regarding funding has been taken.