

has been completed in December 2017. As on 04.03.2018, a total length of 2,66,631 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to connect 1,13,226 GPs has been laid, and a total of 1,03,730 GPs have been made Service Ready.

On 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. The Phase-II is to be implemented through an optimal mix of media (*i.e.* OFC, radio and satellite) and implementation by State-led Model, Private Sector, CPSU Model, laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs. The implementation plans for States have been approved by Telecom Commission for Phase II of the project.

The approved cost of the BharatNet project is ₹ 42,068 crore and the project is to be completed by March, 2019.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have given their consent for implementation of the project and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with States/UTs. According to the MoUs, the States/UTs are to provide space and power at GP level for installation of infrastructure under the Project.

Further, as per the approved modified strategy for Phase-II of the project, one of the implementation models of project is State Model. Based on the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) received from States, Telecom Commission on 08.09.2017, 29.09.2017 and 21.12.2017 has approved the implementation for Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana under State-led model at an estimated cost of ₹ 9,590.34 crore. MoUs have been signed with all 8 States, and mobilization advance of ₹ 877.57 crore has been released to the States.

(c) Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) received from the State Government of Telangana, Telecom Commission on 29.09.2017 has approved the implementation of Telangana under the State-led model at an estimated cost of ₹ 1243.23 crore and mobilization advance of ₹ 112.28 crore has been released to the State.

Compensation to farmers under crop insurance scheme

†*157. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any amount from the farmers as premium for crop insurance;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total amount received under this head from April, 2014 to January, 2018 along with the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether compensation has been paid to farmers out of this deposited insurance amount, if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(d) the head under which remaining amount is being used along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) No Sir. As per provisions of the Government sponsored crop insurance schemes, premium from farmers alongwith Central and State Government share in premium subsidy is paid to the concerned insurance company for acceptance of risk and payment of claims as per provision of scheme. Besides, the Government has also in the past contributed towards claims arising under erstwhile scheme of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Insurance companies utilize the premium so received for settlement of claims and their other administrative expenses for implementation of the scheme. Details of premium including farmers' premium paid to insurance companies and claims paid under various crop insurance schemes implemented during 2014-15 to 2017-18 is given below:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	Farmers' Premium	Premium Subsidy	Gross Premium	Total Claims Paid
2014-15	2707.16	2238.89	4946.05	7831.05
2015-16	3418.20	2187.30	5613.38	21428.59
2016-17	4383.31	17796.51	22180.28	12948.98*
2017-18**	4013.68	20338.03	24351.71	Not reported
GRAND TOTAL	14522.36	42560.72	57091.42	42208.62

* Against approved claims of ₹ 14433.36 crore, an amount of ₹ 12948.98 crore has already been paid.

** Tentative

Making agriculture sector profitable

*158. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to enhance production of agricultural produces in order to make the Agriculture sector profitable in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;