

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2021**

NOFN FOR INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

1136 # SHRI RAM SHAKAL:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has linked the villages of the country to National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for internet connectivity under the 'BharatNet Project'; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) & (b) BharatNet project, earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity at all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2, 50,000) in the country. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for execution of the project. The implementation of the Phase-I of the BharatNet project has been done over Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL). The Cabinet on July 19, 2017 approved a modified strategy for implementation of the BharatNet project. Accordingly, the implementation of Phase-II is being done through State-led Model, Private Sector Model and CPSU-led Model by using an Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite).

As on 01.02.2021, under BharatNet project (Phase-I & II), by laying 4,94,879 km OFC, a total number of 1,49,026 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready. Further 3,330 GPs have been made Service Ready on satellite media. Thus, a total number of 1,52,356 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready in the country. Regarding provision of connectivity to all the villages in the country, the scope of BharatNet project is being expanded to connect all the 6 lakh inhabited villages, as announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.08.2020.
