

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

CONNECTING VILLAGES WITH OPTICAL FIBRE

1518 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started the work of connecting all the villages of the country with optical fibre in the next 1000 days;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the State-wise funds to be spent for the said work, including Rajasthan;
- (c) whether Government has banned the use of 4G equipment manufactured by China, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is going to provide mobile connectivity in villages which are located in strategic and border areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and by when the connectivity is likely to be provided in said areas?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. The scope of BharatNet has now been extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs. On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet accorded approval for a revised strategy for implementation of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States of the country covering about 3.61 lakh villages, and a Request for Proposal (RFP) was floated on 20.07.2021 for implementation of the same.

The estimated maximum Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), approved for the above PPP model, is Rs. 19,041 crore and the details of the same (including that of Rajasthan) are given in **Annexure**.

(c) For implementing the provisions of National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector (NSDTS), Department of Telecommunications has issued amendment in Telecom Licenses on 10.03.2021, wherein, all Licensees have been directed to connect only Trusted Products (including 4G equipment) in their Telecom networks with effect from 15.06.2021. Further, for public procurement including that of 4G equipment, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has inserted Rule 144 (xi) in the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017 as per OM No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23.07.2020.

(d) & (e) Mobile services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered villages of the country, including those located in strategic and border areas. The Government has the following schemes with USOF funding in this regard:

- (i) 354 Uncovered Villages Scheme: Under this scheme border villages of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and other priority areas are included.
- (ii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region.
- (iii) Schemes for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and Aspirational Districts.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1518 for answer on 10.12.2021

Details of the estimated maximum Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for PPP model of BharatNet

Package	States	Total Villages (including GPs)	VGF (Rs Cr.)
I	Kerala and Karnataka	33383	2225
II	Uttar Pradesh (East)	78011	2895
III	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25228	1053
IV	Rajasthan	46343	2441
V	Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh	39344	2589
VI	West Bengal	39188	1277
VII	North East Region (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	19664	3453
VIII	Assam	27912	781
IX	Madhya Pradesh	52497	2327
	Total	361570	19041
