

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 128  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK SCHEME**

**\*128. DR. KALYAN VAIJINATHRAO KALE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Optical Fibre Network Scheme (NOFN) has been launched by the Government to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether all 250 Gram Panchayats of the country have been covered under this scheme and if not, the reasons therefor and the total fund allocated for this scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaint for poor network, sub-standard cable wire or any irregularities in this scheme, if so, the details thereof during the last five years, Gram Panchayat-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) whether any Committee has been formed by the Government to supervise the irregularities and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN  
REGION  
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 128 FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING “NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK SCHEME.”**

(a) & (b) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), renamed as BharatNet in 2017, is being implemented in phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Till October, 2024, under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II; 2,14,283 GPs are service ready, against the planned 2,22,343 GPs in Phase-I and Phase-II. The provision of covering remaining GPs and further strengthening of the Phase-I and Phase-II network is under the scope of Amended BharatNet Program (ABP), which was approved in August, 2023 at a cost of Rs. 1,39,579 crore.

(c) & (d) BharatNet has been under implementation in a phased manner under different models, like Central Public Sector Units (CPSU)-led model, state-led model, private-led model, and Satellite connected GPs. For any difficulties in operations, action is the responsibility of the corresponding implementing agency at the local level. However, the generic complaints such as pertaining to fiber cuts, power/ battery related issues, low speed are being mitigated in the ABP.

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