

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5218
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025**

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES IN BHARATNET PROJECT IN BIHAR

5218. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Right of Way (RoW) issues, frequent fiber breakages and delays in vendor execution have significantly hindered the implementation of the BharatNet Project in various parts of the country including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the specific number of villages in Bihar where BharatNet implementation has been stalled due to RoW disputes, fiber damages or contractor delays;
- (c) the details of any pending approvals or disputes with state agencies and local authorities that have affected the timely laying of optical fiber in Bihar;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any measures to fast-track RoW clearances and ensure coordination between the Central and State Governments to avoid delays, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of instances of fiber breakages recorded in Bihar under BharatNet, the average time taken for repairs and the measures taken to improve network resilience?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (c) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Bihar. In Bihar, 8,340 GPs planned under BharatNet Phase-I & Phase-II have been made service ready. At some places, the difficulties like delay in obtaining Right of Way permissions (RoW), damage of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) due to development works took place. These have been addressed from time to time by regular review meetings with the respective State Government/agencies, etc.

(d) The GatiShakti Sanchar Portal, launched in May 2022, is a collaborative institutional mechanism amongst all stakeholders including Central and State/UT Government(s), Local bodies, and Service Providers to fast-track RoW clearances by ensuring better coordination between the Central and State Governments. The government has notified Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 that has further streamlined RoW clearance process.

(e) Some instances of fibre cut/damage are recorded in BharatNet in Bihar from time to time, which have been addressed by engaging Planned Maintenance Agency (PMA) and Fiber Maintenance Agency (FMA) in the state. To improve network resilience, Service Level Agreement (SLA) based Operation & Maintenance contracts have been done by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with the professional agencies. These agencies have deployed district-wise patrol teams and Fibre repair teams (FRTs) for monitoring and repair of BharatNet Optical fibre cable (OFC) routes.
