

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:137  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003  
OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE IN NORTH-EAST STATES  
K. ASUNGBA SANGTAM

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether most of the States in the country have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable for better telecommunication and internet service up to the level of sub-divisional headquarters;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce it in the North-East States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which this work is likely to be started; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 137 FOR 10TH DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE IN NORTH-EAST STATES.

(a) Most of the States have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to the level of District Headquarters (DHQ) and a few Sub-Divisional Headquarters (SDHQ) based on traffic justification, bandwidth requirement and economic viability. Internet Service is available in District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters and also in smaller places on dial up basis.

(b) All telephone exchanges in Delhi and Mumbai have OFC connectivity. In the rest of the country, 541 District Headquarters out of 584 District Headquarters and 1498 Sub-Divisional Headquarters out of 1642 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable. 41 District Headquarters and 127 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been provided connectivity on reliable media such as microwave and satellite communication systems depending upon traffic and geographical terrain. 2 District Headquarters and 17 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are not having telephone exchanges due to insufficient demand. Details are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (f): In the North East States, Optical Fibre Cable connectivity has already been introduced for 49 District Headquarters and 98 Sub-Divisional Headquarters where traffic justification, technical feasibility and economic viability exist. Work for Optical Fibre Cable connectivity has been started for 6 district Headquarters in North-East States. Other district Headquarters and Sub-divisional Headquarters in very remote locations and hilly terrain are being served by high capacity Satellite communication systems or Microwave systems.

**ANNEXURE**

**DETAILS OF OFC CONNECTIVITY TO DHQs & SDHQs**

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of DHQs with OFC	No. of DHQs	No. of SDHQs	No. of SDHQs with OFC
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	73	73
2	Assam	23	22	48	41
3	Bihar	38	38	97	94
4	Jharkhand	22	22	35	35
5	Gujarat	25	25	46	46
6	Haryana	19	19	45	45
7	Himachal Pradesh	12	10	51	39

8	Jammu & Kashmir	14	8	12	8
9	Kerala	14	14	21	21
10	Karnataka	27	27	52	52
11	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	146	146
12	Chattisgarh	16	16	56	53
13	Maharashtra	35	35	112	111
14	Mizoram	8	1	17	2
15	Nagaland	11	3	22	4
16	Tripura	4	4	15	14
17	Arunachal Pradesh	16	4	36	6
18	Manipur	9	6	34	13
19	Meghalaya	7	5	15	9
20	Orissa	30	30	58	57
21	Punjab	18	18	68	68
22	Rajasthan	32	32	105	105
23	Tamilnadu	28	28	58	58
24	Uttar Pradesh(E)	50	50	204	191
25	Uttar Pradesh(W)	20	20	87	87
26	Uttranchal	13	13	52	43
27	West Bengal	14	14	58	58
28	Sikkim	4	4	9	9
29	Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	0	0
30	Kolkatta(Telecom Dist.)	4	4	10	10
31	Chennai(Telecom Dist.)	1	1	0	0

Total      584                      541    1642                      1498

Note: 1. 41 District Headquarters and 127 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been provided connectivity on reliable media such as microwave and satellite communication systems depending upon traffic and geographical terrain.

2. 2 District Headquarters and 17 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are not having telephone exchanges due to insufficient demand.