

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:99  
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014  
NATIONAL OPTIC FIBRE NETWORK PROJECT  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the National Optic Fibre Network project under implementation provides for broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the cost of the project, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any review of the progress made under the project and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government along with signing of Memorandum of Understanding with all the States including West Bengal and Union Territories in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 99 FOR 14TH JULY, 2014 REGARDING "NATIONAL OPTIC FIBRE NETWORK PROJECT"

(a) Government is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in the country.

(b) The details of the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country State/UT-wise are enclosed as Annexure-I.

The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 20,000 Crore for connecting approx. 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country. The project is being implemented by 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and they have been assigned specific States/UTs for project implementation. The project is being implemented in a composite manner by the CPSUs. Therefore, CPSU wise (BSNL, Railtel & PGCIL) information on cost of the project and the specific States/UTs assigned to each CPSU is at Annexure- II.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. On the basis of review of the progress made, NOFN is to be implemented in a phased manner in as under:

# 50,000 GPs by March 2015 (Phase-I)

# 1,00,000 GPs by March 2016 (Phase-II)

# Balance GPs by March 2017 (Phase-III)

Multi-pronged strategy for execution of work viz. work through 3 CPSUs and directly by BBNL is being adopted for accelerated implementation of the project.

Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India, concerned State Governments and BBNL for free Right of Way (RoW) for laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been signed with all States including West Bengal and Union Territories except the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T of Lakshadweep.