

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:645  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013  
UNDERGROUND CABLES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS  
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats connected through underground cable in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether complaints/irregularities have been reported in regard to laying of cable lines in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the Gram Panchayats despite laying cables therein along with the number of such Panchayats?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.(SMT.) KILLI KRUPARAN)

(a) According to information provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the State-wise number of Gram Panchayats connected through underground cable in the country during the last three years and the current year by BSNL is given in Annexure-I.

National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is planned to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of PSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks, for providing broadband connectivity.

Three Pilot Projects have been completed on 15.10.2012 to cover all Gram Panchayats of Arain Block in Ajmer District (Rajasthan), Panisagar Block in North Tripura District (Tripura), Paravada Block in Vishakhapatnam District (Andhra Pradesh). Each of the 58 Gram Panchayats in these three Pilot Project Blocks have been provided with 100 Mbps bandwidth.

State-wise number of Gram Panchayats connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under the Pilot Project of NOFN are given in Annexure II.

(b) No complaints / irregularities in regard to laying of cables have been reported to BSNL.

(c) & (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(e) The telephone connections have not been provided in 9 Gram Panchayats in Andaman & Nicobar Circle, out of which 7 Gram Panchayats have not requested for the telephone connections and 2 Gram Panchayats are having Mobile coverage.

In Uttarakhand Secondary Switching Area (SSA) telephone connections are not provided being technically non feasible.