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Rajya Sabha on - 28/12/2018

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REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF RAILTEL CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (RAILTEL) FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

RailTel was formed as a Schedule A Company under the Ministry of Railways in September, 2000 with the objective inter alia of facilitating Railways in modernizing of train operation, safety systems and network by providing state of the art communication infrastructure.

2. The present paid up capital of RailTel is Rs. 320 crore and the networth of the Company as at 31.3.2018 is Rs. 1,249 crore.
3. RailTel has exclusive seamless Right of Way (ROW) alongwith 67,000 KM of railway track passing through 7300 stations across the country. Using this ROW, RailTel has so far laid 48956 Route kilometer (RKMs) of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
4. With two Tier-III Data Centers in place at Secunderabad and Gurugram, RailTel has received several orders from Central Government Ministries, State Government departments and PSUs for Data Center related services during the year.
5. Department of Telecommunication under the Universal Service Obligation Fund Scheme (USOF) awarded the project of laying OFC in NE I and NE II (Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya under NE I and Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland under NE II). During the year, RailTel completed all nodes of Tripura and the work in other states is advanced stage of completion.
6. RailTel was also selected by Govt. of India to be one of the three implementers for the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project sanctioned to connect all the Panchayats on broadband. The project has now been rechristened as 'BharatNet'. Under the Phase-I of this project, RailTel is mandated to cover 10782 Gram Panchayats covering 44 districts & 317 Blocks across Northern Eastern region states (Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh), Pondicherry in South & Gujarat (incl. Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar

Haveli) in West. As of Mar'18, 22299 KM of duct has been laid covering nearly 87.69% of Gram Panchayats and 19862 KM of optic fiber to cover nearly 77.92% of the Gram Panchayats.

7. RailTel with Google as its technology partner started setting up high speed Wi-Fi network initially in approx. 400 stations in the country of A1 and A category. Under this partnership RailTel has upgraded its backbone infrastructure to backhaul high speed connectivity of approx. 1 Gbps per station. Google has provided the radio access network and RailTel is providing power and infrastructure. End consumers are using the Wi-Fi services under 'RailWire' the retail broadband Brand of RailTel. RailTel has completed commissioning of Wi-Fi at 365 stations as on 31st March 2018.

8. RailTel has started a project of providing RailWire Wi-Fi at 200 rural stations as a pilot project under USOF. This project is going to be a pioneer in bridging the digital divide between urban and rural. 196 rural stations have been equipped with WI-FI services as on 31st March-2018.

9. The summary of standalone financial results achieved during the year as compared to the previous year are given below:

Rs. in crore

Particulars	2017-18	2016-17
(i) Gross Revenue (Income)	1025	900
(ii) Expenditure	712	595
(iii) Profit before Tax	194	189
(iv) Profit after Tax	156	127
(v) Dividend paid	62.47	51.53
(vi) Gross Block	1,643	1,531
(vii) Net worth	1,249	1,157
