

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3624
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
. LAYING OF OFC .
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railtel Corporation have prepared a project to lay 10,000 K.M. of optic fibre cable network;
- (b) if so, the details and cost of the project; and
- (c) the facilities and benefit likely to be obtained by the railway users?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A policy decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways to build a nationwide broadband Telecom & multimedia network by laying optical fibre cable (OFC) along 62,800 route kms of Railway track by utilising Railways' right of way through a professionally managed corporation. A Corporation named RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) under Ministry of Railways has since been formed. The corporation will be laying optical fibre cable in phases. The phase I will cover about 10,000 route K.M, connecting 4 Metros viz Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata.

(c): The venture will speedily modernise Railway's telecommunication system thereby improving not only Railway's operational efficiency but safety of Railway passengers and trains.