

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3745
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
ESTABLISHMENT OF NKN
Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to establish the National Knowledge Network (NKN) to inter-connect all knowledge institutions in the country through high speed data communication network in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof along-with its objective, functions, applications and likely impact;
- (c) Whether the Government has fixed any targets in this regard;
- (d) If so, the details thereof along-with the funds earmarked for this purpose;
- (e) The status of implementation of the NKN; and
- (f) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite said project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) to (f): Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved a Project on 25.03.2010 for setting up of the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The outlay approved for the project is Rs. 5990 crore over a time frame of 10 years. NKN is to be implemented by National Informatics Center (NIC). For Financial Year 2009-10 an amount of Rs. 240 crore has been released.

The Objective of the NKN is to interconnect all Universities, Libraries, Laboratories, Hospitals and Agricultural Institutions to share data and resources across the country over the high speed (of gigabit capabilities) information network.

NKN will enable scientists, researchers and students from diverse spheres across the country to work together for advancing human development in critical and emerging areas. NKN will catalyze knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer between stakeholders seamlessly across the nation and globally. NKN is expected to encourage a larger section of research and educational institutions to create intellectual property. NKN would enable use of specialized applications, which allow sharing of high performance computing facilities, e-libraries, virtual classrooms, and very large databases. NKN will facilitate creation, acquisition and sharing of Knowledge resources among the large participating institutions in the country. It will bridge the existing knowledge gap in the country. It will help the country evolve as a Knowledge Society and spur economic activities in the Knowledge domain.

Agriculture, Education, Health, e-governance and Grid Computing (High Performance Computing) area, the applications that are identified for implementation and delivery on NKN.

In the initial phase, a core Backbone consisting of 15 Points of Presence (PoPs) have been established with 2.5 Gbps capacity. Around 66 institutions of higher learning and advanced research have been connected to the network and 6 virtual classrooms were setup in six IITs.

The core and associated links to about 1500 institutions are likely to be established in a span of 2-3 years.

A High Level Committee (HLC) with members from stakeholder organizations has been constituted, under the Chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. The HLC will oversee, monitor and coordinate all activities related to creation and implementation of the National Knowledge Network (NKN).