

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3056
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INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch, Science and Education, Internet through international networking in the Country.
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a), (b) and (c): 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 cr. over a time frame of 10 years. NKN is to be implemented by National Informatics Center (NIC).

The Objective of the NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. These would cover over 1500 Institutes comprising of all Universities, and Research Institutions.

To enable to connect to International R & D technology Institutions; a connectivity to Trans- Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) exists on NKN. These high speed networks provide seamless access to scientific information and data repositories worldwide.

The application areas envisaged under the NKN include Agriculture, Education, Health, e-governance, Grid Computing (High Performance Computing).

An amount of Rs. 240 cr. was released in March 2010 for the FY 2009-10. The budget allocation at present for current financial year 2010-11 is Rs. 1112 cr. out of which Rs. 942 cr. has been released as on date.

NKN will facilitate creation, acquisition and sharing of Knowledge resources among the large participating Institutions seamlessly – across the nation and globally. 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.

The salient features of the NKN are:

1. Establishing an ultra high-speed national information network for the country.
2. Connecting all major knowledge institutions (Universities & Research Institutions) for knowledge creation, collation and dissemination.
3. Connecting the Indian knowledge institutions to the International knowledge community for knowledge sharing.
4. Enabling sectoral virtual networks in various application areas (Agriculture, Health, Education, E-governance and Grid Computing).
5. Setting up a platform for development of new processes and technologies based on high bandwidth and low latency networks.
6. Enabling a test-bed for network and securing technology development for the country.

The Initial Phase started in January 2009. In the Initial Phase 15 Points of Presence (PoPs) of NIC Network were upgraded to handle gigabits of Speeds. 81 institutions have been connected and 6 virtual class rooms have been set up.