

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011  
FIBRE OPTICAL NETWORK TO ARMED FORCES  
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to build a fibre optic network for the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project;
- (c) the funds allocated and released in this regard so far;
- (d) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has sought additional funds for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure gave the financial approval of Rs.9175.16 Cr. (Rs.1077.16 Cr. for Air Force and Rs. 8098 Cr. for Army and Navy) for laying of alternate communication network for Defence Services. This network is being mainly executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) and a small part of Delhi and Mumbai Air Force network by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL). The Air Force Network (AFNET) has been dedicated to nation by Air Force on 14.9.2010. For Army and Navy, BSNL has already initiated the process.

(c) to (e) Till date, Rs.961.61 crore has been reimbursed to BSNL and Rs.25.57 crore has been reimbursed to MTNL. The proposal submitted by BSNL for enhancement of budget by Rs.4957.03 crore over and above Rs. 9175.16 Cr. sanctioned by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure for laying of alternate Communication network was placed before Full Telecom Commission (FTC). As per the decision of FTC, the proposal is being examined in consultation with the Defence Ministry and the Finance Wing of Department of Telecommunications.