

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2098
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

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

- (a) whether the Government has established the National Knowledge Network (NKN);
- (b) if so, the objectives and the salient features of NKN;
- (c) the main applications identified for implementation and delivery of NKN; and
- (d) the time frame for setting up of the Network and its status at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): 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. The core and associated links to about 1500 institutions are likely to be established in a span of 2-3 years.

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.
7. Link to Global Networks like TEIN3 (TransEurasia Information Network phase 3), and GLORIAD (Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development) to collaborate with the research communities across the globe.

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

As of February 2011, 18 Points of Presence (PoPs) have been established. 110 institutions have been connected and 26 virtual class rooms have been set up.