

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2253

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

INTERNET BROADBAND FACILITIES

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

- (a) whether the Government had fixed any target to cover the villages/village panchayats with broadband by 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the target achieved so far in this regard;
- (c) the action taken by the Government to achieve the envisaged target and also remove the bottleneck, if any;
- (d) whether the Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN);
- (e) if so, the salient features thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (f) the time by which the NOFN is likely to be implemented alongwith the target fixed in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a)to(c) Government under its Bharat Nirman Programme, has envisaged to provide broadband coverage to all the Gram Panchayats by 2012. The details are at Annexure.

(d)to(f) Government has approved creation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for providing broadband connectivity to all Panchayats. The plan is to extend the existing optical fibre network initially upto Panchayats by utilizing the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and creating an institutional mechanism for management and operation of the NOFN for ensuring non discriminatory access to all service providers. The cost of initial phase of the NOFN Scheme is likely to be in the region of Rs. 20, 000 crores. The network proposed, under the scheme, is to be completed in 2 years' time