

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:286
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
OPTICAL FIBRE AND WIFI
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to lay optical fibre for providing internet network in the villages of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the WiFi medium is a better option than optical fibre to achieve the objective within the stipulated time: and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for opting for fibre network over WiFi?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)to(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 286 FOR 14TH DECEMBER, 2011 REGARDING 'OPTICAL FIBRE AND WIFI'

(a) Yes, Madam. Government proposes to lay optical fibre for providing Broadband Network initially to all the Gram Panchayats in the Country.

(b)&(c) WiFi is a technology for connecting electronic devices such as personal computer, smart phone, laptop etc. over short distance in indoor as well as outdoor locations for last mile connectivity. Whereas for higher bandwidth requirements, efficiency of transmission and superior broadband experience optical fibre medium is more suitable. If we have to reach the benefits of education, health etc to the rural areas, it is more than likely that the medium will be video, which requires comparatively larger bandwidth. Given the falling prices of the customer end devices, utility of video based applications, as well as the possibilities that Entertainment holds, it is reasonable to expect that at least one third of the households, if not more, would be accessing broadband facilities. In the recommendations on the National broadband plan, TRAI estimated that the backhaul requirement for a village would be of the order of 20 Mbps by the year 2014, which will require an aggregation network having higher capacities. Therefore the required higher bandwidth can be provided more efficiently through optical fibre. However, last mile connectivity from these village panchayats is expected to be met largely through market dynamics and commercial considerations using any of the available technologies both wireline, cable TV and wireless (including WiFi). It may be noted that even with wireless technologies(including WiFi), the required robust, reliable and scalable backhaul connectivity is optimally provided by optical fibre media.