

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4224

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

De Dr. Ratna;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Pakirappa Shri S.;Rai Shri Prem Das;Singh Shri Dhananjay ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has not achieved the target of providing broadband facility to the villages under the Bharat Nirman and other central schemes during the last three years and in some of the States where it has not achieved even 25% of the target;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has found any irregularities for such a huge gap in the target and its achievement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to achieve the target on time; and
- (e) the progress made in setting up National Optical Fibre Network Agency?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam,

Govt. under Bharat Nirman has a target of covering 2,47,864 village panchayats by December 2012. As on March 2012, a total of 1,47,463 (59.49 % ) village panchayats have been covered. The State wise broadband coverage of village Panchayats under Bharat Nirman for last three years is annexed at Annexure-A . A Rural Wire-line Broadband Scheme has been launched under Universal Service Obligation Fund ( USOF) to increase broadband penetration in rural and remote areas. Under this scheme BSNL will provide 8,88,832 wire-line Broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions over a period of 5-years in this scheme. As on March 2012, a total of 3,58,978 broadband connections have been provided. The detail is at Annexure B

In states like MP, Chattisgarh and NE-II (as communicated by BSNL) the achievement of coverage of village panchayats under Bharat Nirman II is low (less than 25%). This is due to inaccessible & difficult terrain and law & order problem in some part of these states.

(c) & (d) No irregularities have come to the notice of Govt.

(e) TRAI had given their recommendations on the National Broadband Plan (NBP) on 8th December 2010. In this recommendation TRAI has proposed that a 100 % central government owned , holding company called National Optical Fibre Agency (NOFA) be formed.

Government has approved the scheme for creation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25th October 2011, for providing Broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh village Panchayats. The objective of this scheme is to extend the existing optical fiber network to Panchayats by utilizing the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years.

NOFN project will be executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) i.e. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, Railtel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose. BBNL is currently working out modalities for implementation of this project (Bid document process, unit of work etc.).