

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1517  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013  
BROADBAND INTERNET FACILITY  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has decided to provide broadband internet facility to universities, colleges and technical institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of institutions in various States where the said facility has been provided and the number of centres which have been developed to provide the said facility; and
- (d) the time frame fixed for providing the said facility to all the educational institutions and the amount likely to be incurred on the said work?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), it has been envisaged to provide 15-20 Virtual Private Network over Broadband (VPNoBB) internet connections of 512 Kbps speed to over 25000+ colleges and 2000 polytechnics and 1 Gbps connectivity to 419 universities/ institutions in the country.

(c) & (d) As on 31.01.2013, connectivity to 400 universities and 19738 colleges in various states has been provided by BSNL and MTNL. In the original proposal approved in 2009, an amount of Rs. 1500 crores was approved by the Central Government for providing the connectivity to 419 universities and 18000 colleges during 11th Five Year Plan itself. Subsequently, the number of colleges to be covered has been increased to 25000+ and 2000 polytechnics. No definite time frame for providing the connectivity to the enhanced number of colleges has been fixed.