

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4121  
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014  
USE OF OPTIC CABLE NETWORK  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has decided to merge National Mission for Education and Rashtriya Gyan Network through information technology via optic cable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the assessment being made about the use of optic fibre cable network by connecting educational institutions with it;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to provide common course and mutual improvement and exchange between educational institutions of the country with the help of benefit earned through optic fibre cable connectivity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Madam, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), it is envisaged to provide connectivity to over 25000 colleges and 2000 polytechnics in the country and to 419 universities/ deemed universities and institutions of national importance. Connectivity to the remaining universities/ institutions falls under the ambit of the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The universities/ institutions connected under the NMEICT Mission are being integrated with the NKN in order to avoid duplication and attain synergy.

(c) There are various components of the NMEICT Mission which include the provision of e-books and e-journals free to learners, support for the generation of e-contents for Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate levels, the creation of web and video courses under NPTEL (National Programme in Technology Enhanced Learning) in all branches of engineering and physical sciences, the development of virtual laboratories, the development of vocational education modules, "talk to a teacher" schemes etc. By extending computer infrastructure and connectivity, the reach of these facilities is ensured to the academic community.

(d) & (e) The Government does not have any plan to provide common courses. But using connectivity and A-View video conferencing software developed by Amrita University, IIT Bombay, under the Talk to a Teacher Programme, has conducted a number of workshops for the teachers situated at remote centres.