

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2446

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

GPON SYSTEM

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

(a) whether there is delay in procurement or development of key devices of technology of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) system which has resulted in delay in completion of National Broadband Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has approached the Government for extension of the National Broadband Project rollout deadline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)&(b) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has already placed the purchase order for procurement of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) system with M/s United Telecoms Limited (UTL) for deployment under the National Optical Fibre Network Project (NOFN) and the supply has also commenced.

GPON technology is based on indigenous technology developed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and manufactured for the first time for such a large project. There has been some delay mainly on account of some technical/ software issues, quality assurance (QA) clearance and initial certification/ testing of GPON equipment.

GPON equipment are being progressively supplied/ deployed for the Gram Panchayats (GPs) based on the progress of trenching and cable laying works in the field units.

(c)&(d) Government approved NOFN project on 25.10.2011 to connect all the GPs (approximately 2,50,000) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for provision of 100 Mbps bandwidth.

Given the mega nature of the project to cover unreachable rural & remote areas widely dispersed across the country, supply and other constraints in timely availability of labour & contractors for trenching and cable laying, all Gram Panchayats in the country are targeted to be connected through OFC for providing broadband connectivity by December 2016 in a phased manner under NOFN Project.