

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015

NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Tamta Shri Ajay

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

- (a) whether the telecom department has set up a committee to oversee timely implementation of the much delayed national broadband network across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms of reference of the committee;
- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by the Government for the committee to submit its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for completion of national broadband network of about 20,000 km. by March end?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b) Yes, Madam. Government has constituted on 14.01.2015 a committee on National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of NOFN. The terms and reference of the committee are as under:

- (i) To suggest measures for augmenting the current design and architecture of NOFN in line with the vision and objectives of Digital India.
- (ii) To recommend an implementation strategy so that provision of broadband connectivity is accelerated to connect all Gram Panchayats by December, 2016.
- (iii) To assess and recommend suitable technology options for fast track and cost effective implementation.
- (iv) To recommend an effective and empowered structure and mechanism for implementation of NOFN in mission mode.
- (v) To assess relevant business models for effective utilisation of bandwidth created under NOFN.

(c) & (d) The committee shall endeavour to submit its recommendations in one month.

(e) Tenders for trenching and pipe laying works have been finalized for 2,060 block and work orders have been issued for 1613 blocks. Cable laying has been completed for 7,470 GPs. Total 953 Gram Panchayats have been provided with NOFN infrastructure for high speed rural broadband network.

Following steps being taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of NOFN:

- (i) Execution of project in a phased manner to learn and improve from experiences of project implementation.
- (ii) Multi-pronged strategy for execution of work being adopted for accelerated implementation of the project.
- (iii) Regular monitoring and review of the project at various levels