

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:441

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Extension of Knowledge Network to SAARC Countries

Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that India is in the process of extending its National Knowledge Network to all members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to allow students unimpeded access to digital libraries and networking resources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that in the coming days and years we will work assiduously to make the region more connected and more prosperous; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes, India has committed to extend India's National Knowledge Network, to all countries in SAARC. This will help to connect students in SAARC countries with e-libraries and other digital resources in India.

(c) & (d) Yes. A SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) has been signed. Similarly SAARC Regional Railways Agreement for SAARC Member States, Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger and Cargo Vehicular Traffic Amongst SAARC Member States have been discussed by the SAARC leaders. Increased connectivity links will lead to increased trade and capitalize on synergies for regional growth and development.
