

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4619
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has established National Knowledge Network (NKN) to interconnect all knowledge institutions through high speed data communication network in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including objectives, functions, applications and its major impact;
- (c) whether the Government has made any implementation strategy and targets for the programme;
- (d) if so, the details and the status of initial phase of implementation of NKN; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir, Government of India has approved National Knowledge Network (NKN) Project on 25.03.2010 at an outlay of Rs. 5990 crore over a period of 10 years.

The Objective of the NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research covering over 1500 Institutes comprising of Universities, Research Institutions and National R&D Labs.

NKN network is designed to provide robust and reliable connectivity and scalability. The application areas envisaged under the NKN include Agriculture, Education, Health, e-Governance, Grid Computing (High Performance Computing), Facilitating Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Plan amongst the organizations connected to NKN.

NKN is the first of its kind network in India to evolve as a knowledge society which has brought together institutions of higher education and knowledge in terms of collaboration and research amongst each other. It has also enabled sharing of high performing computing facilities, e-libraries, virtual classrooms and large data bases.

As of 31st July, 2014, a total of 1292 links to institutions [Universities (state & central), Medical Colleges, ICMRs, Agricultural Universities, ICARs, Engineering Colleges, IITs, NITs, IIMs and various research labs of DAE , CSIR, DBT] have been connected. This includes 343 universities migrated from NMEICT to NKN.

(c): To ensure effective and efficient implementation of the project, Government has constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) with members from various stakeholder departments. HLC has created Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which guides on technical aspects of the project. NIC under DeitY has been nominated as the implementation agency. The target of NKN is to connect 1500+ institutions by setting up network consisting of an ultra-high speed core (multiples of 10 Gbps and upwards).

(d): The initial phase was a Pilot Project and the objective was to create minimum infrastructure at 57 selected educational and research Institutes. Subsequently connectivity was extended to 89 links. 66 virtual classrooms have been created under the project 'Creation of virtual classrooms' at various institutes.

(e): To give boost to collaborative research, NKN has facilitated high bandwidth connectivity to external networks such as Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN4) which in turn has helped Indian institutes to take up research projects all over the World requiring higher bandwidth.

NKN would soon be setting up a network R&D lab that would enable in-house simulations of various projects and products and applications in areas of networking and security.