

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:429
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
CONSTRUCTION OF BROADBAND HIGHWAYS
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for implementation of broadband highways across the length and breadth of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set any target in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the "Broadband for all" demand through fast implementation of broadband highways across the length and breadth of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Government is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for providing broadband connectivity by reaching optical fibre to all Gram Panchayats in the country by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks.

Length of the incremental fibre estimated to be laid is approx. 6 lakh km. Dark fibre network thus created will be lit by appropriate technology to ensure a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps at each Gram Panchayat on which various broadband applications including e-health, e-education and other e- governance applications will be provided.

The project is being funded by Universal Service Obligations Fund at an estimated cost of Rs.20,000 Crore. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

The work of implementation has been assigned to 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. The project would be completed in a phased manner by March 2017.