

Broadband connectivity in schools

2186. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide broadband connectivity to schools in next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the country's colleges and universities will be fully connected with broadband; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology in Schools" there is a provision for internet connectivity including broadband in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools subject to availability of telecom infrastructure in the vicinity and based on viable proposals from the State Governments.

Under the Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme of Department of Telecommunication, there is provision for providing broadband connectivity to individual users and Government Institutions, including schools in rural and remote areas. Under the Scheme, BSNL plans to provide 8,88,832 wire-line broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions, including schools, and will set up 28,672 kiosks over a period of 5 years *i.e.* by 2014. As of May 2010, a total of 1,42,906 broadband connections have been provided in rural and remote areas.

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme "National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)", there is a proposal to provide broadband connectivity to over 18000 colleges in the country including each of the Departments of 419 Universities/Institutions of higher learning by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.