

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2011-2012	219.84	77.92	39.63	68.97	77.70	36.44	337.17	183.33
2012-2013	225.75	78.66	36.47	56.41	61.80	4.01	324.02	139.08
2013-2014	227.15	70.87	36.11	32.61	69.13	3.62	332.39	107.10
2014-2015	225.85	87.49	34.44	38.17	78.32	2.91	338.61	128.57

Creation of BBNL for NOFN Project

1434. KUMARI SELJA:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

(a) whether Government has created Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) for administrating the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) operations and execute the projects implemented by telecom PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of areas where all Gram Panchayats have been covered by NOFN and their status at present?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to connect Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre for enabling broadband connectivity was approved by Government on 25.10.2011. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012 to create, operate, maintain and manage NOFN infrastructure.

Under NOFN project, the mandate is to connect all Gram Panchayats (Approx. 2.5 Lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Bandwidth of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) so created in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs shall be used by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications like e-health, e-education, e-governance, e-mart, e-mandi etc. can also be provided on this network.

BBNL has entered into agreement with three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to utilize their existing optical fiber and to implement the work on ground for laying incremental optical fiber for connecting all GPs.

(c) As on 03.05.2015, tenders for trenching and pipe laying works have been finalized for 2,170 blocks. Work orders have been issued for 1,872 blocks and work has commenced in 1,692 blocks. 58,874 Kms of duct and 36,689 Kms of OFC have been laid. Cable laying has been completed for 16,840 GPs. Total 1,061 GPs have been connected through NOFN for high speed rural broadband network. All Gram Panchayats in the country are targeted to be connected through OFC for providing broadband connectivity by December 2016 in a phased manner under NOFN Project.

Secure flow of public and private communications

1435. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to protect privacy and security of our citizens and elected leaders in view of recent global incidents of tapping of communications by US and UK agencies;

(b) whether Government will control foreign agencies handling internal communications of our citizens and Government; and

(c) whether Government will take initiative in this respect to bring together various Governments to ensure secure flow of public and private communications and protect exchange of communications of national interest among Government officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, taking note of the disclosure by foreign media reports in June, 2013 about extensive electronic surveillance programmes deployed by the U.S. agencies to collect internet and telephony data, Government has expressed concerns over reported U.S. monitoring of internet traffic of India. Concerns with regard to violation of any of Indian laws relating to privacy of information of Indian citizens as well as intrusive data capture deployed against Indian citizens or Government infrastructure have been conveyed to the U.S. Government. In addition, the issue of U.S. cyber surveillance activities was discussed during the India-US Strategic Dialogue meeting held in New Delhi on 24 June 2013.

Government keeps on taking appropriate protective measures by way of an integrated approach with a series of legal, technical and administrative steps to ensure that necessary systems are in place to address the growing threat of cyber attacks. In this direction, Government has approved a framework for cyber security, including protection of critical sectors in country that envisages a multi-layered approach for ensuring