

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3467
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005
LAYING OF OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE NETWORK
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railtel Corporation of India (RCI) plans to lay a high speed optical fibre cable network along 42000 km of rail tracks;
- (b) if so, the total length of optical fibre cable laid by the RCI till date;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred by the RCI thereon;
- (d) how the RCI has mobilised the funds for the project; and
- (e) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel) and Railways have laid a total of 28000 KMs approximately Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) upto October 2005. It further plans to lay balance OFC in the next 2-3 financial years.
- (c): RailTel has incurred Rs. 265 crores on creating OFC network and the balance amount has been spent by the Railways. RailTel is issuing equity shares to Railways against OFC assets of Railways transferred to RailTel.
- (d): RailTel raised funds of Rs. 150 crores from Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and Rs. 72 crores from Banks.
- (e): The OFC backbone has been targeted upto 42,000 KMs in the next three years.