

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006
OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK
Barman Shri Hiten

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

- (a) whether an MoU has been executed by BSNL and Rail Tel for sharing of the optical fibre network of Indian Railways by BSNL;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed project covered under the said MoU;
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom; and
- (d) time-frame envisaged for commencement and conclusion of implementation of the MoU?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 FOR 24TH FEBRUARY, 2006 REGARDING OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. An MoU was signed on 9th July, 2003 between BSNL and RailTel. Salient features of the MoU are as given below:-

To meet each other's requirement of bandwidth/other services on mutual agreed terms and conditions.

BSNL to provide technical know how in designing the telecom network as and when required by RailTel.

#Details of infrastructure sharing:

#Lease of bandwidth/dark fibre by RailTel on specified routes/sections to BSNL wherever feasible.

#BSNL to utilize RailTel OFC Network for meeting rural telephony requirement.

#Project execution i.e. laying of optical fibre cable and installation of equipment for RailTel by BSNL on RailTel's request.

Cellone coverage along Railway route by utilising RailTel infrastructure.

#GSM PCO to RailTel on trains by BSNL

#Utilising towers space of RailTel for WLL/GSM requirement.

#Deployment of BSNL's technical and financial experts on deputation to RailTel as per their needs.

#BSNL may offer last mile and interconnection to RailTel for their various requirements.

(c) The likely benefit accruing to both the organizations are:-

#Reduction in Capital cost by utilizing each other's infrastructure

New sources of revenue for both organizations, e.g. Centralised Information enquiry system and GSM PCOs in train

#Better Quality of Service to customers by providing redundancy

(d) The cooperation commenced from the date of signing of MoU, i.e. 9th July, 2003. The MoU, which was initially signed for 1 year has since been extended upto 8th July, 2007.