

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3954
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
HIGH SPEED NETWORKING AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) the present status of high speed networking and digital connectivity dedicated to research and education in the country and its potential for the development of research network infrastructure especially in the area of science and engineering research and education;

(b) Whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to support and encourage provision of fastest network speeds with upto 100 mbps as access bandwidth to meet the need for a dedicated, cutting-edge, high performance research and education network; and

(c) If so the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Department of Information Technology has initiated a project titled `GARUDA` to setup proof-of-concept phase of National Grid Computing. The mandate of this project is to carry out research and engineering of technologies, architecture, standards and applications in grid computing. The entire programme focuses on the applications like:

- i) Bio-Informatics
- ii) Computational Atmospheric Science
- iii) Seismic Data Processing
- iv) Disaster Management
- v) Problems in Pure Sciences
- vi) Accurate Three-Dimensional Medical Imaging
- vii) Earthquake Engineering

A high speed communication network of 100 Mbps is envisaged which will connect 45 institutions in 17 cities across the country. ERNET (Education and Research Networking) is the Technical Service provider.

(b) & (c): The project GARUDA is configured on a proof-of-concept basis where the engineering, technology and policy issues are studied and resolved.