GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3173
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) Whether India allegedly stands at the bottom of the world table in terms of high speed networking and digital connectivity dedicated to research and education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country lags in development of research network infrastructure thus affecting support to science and engineering research and education;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to augment the same?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): Education and Research Network (ERNET) connect Education and Research Institutions on intranet and internet through a common backbone. The present infrastructure comprises of end-to-end fibre cable links with state-of-the-art network infrastructure which can provide bandwidth capacity upto 155 Mbps. The entire infrastructure can be scaled up with the growth in the traffic on the network. As of today, 150 universities, 274 agricultural universities and research institutions and 77 engineering colleges have been connected through ERNET. 200 Navodaya Schools in rural areas are also connected through ERNET. ERNET is further connected to Europe Education Research Network (GEANT) and facilitate peer-to-peer connectivity to the Education Institutions in the country with counterparts in Europe. Under a proof of concept phase of National Grid Computing in the country, a project titled - `GARUDA` is designed to connect 45 Educational Research Institutions in 17 cities across the country on a backbone of 2.4 Gbps bandwidth. The institutions connected under the project would access bandwidth upto 100 Mbps depending upon their need.