

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *112
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH JAPAN

***112 SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Japan by India;
- (b) the specific ways in which the MoU will contribute towards the extension of broadband and internet connectivity in remote areas;
- (c) the specific ways in which the MoU will bolster Government's Smart Cities project; and
- (d) the details of funding-related aspects, if any, under the MoU with Japan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. *112 FOR 11.02.2021 REGARDING
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(a) India and Japan share a strategic relationship which is based on appreciation of each other's capabilities and strengths. To extend the India-Japan cooperation activities, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) has been signed between the Ministry of Communications of India and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan on 15th January 2021 for cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Under the MoC, both sides envisage expansion of the range of cooperation in ICT within the scope of available resources. The MoC promotes cooperation between the two countries in the following areas of ICTs:

- (i) 5G Network
- (ii) Telecom Security
- (iii) Submarine cable technologies
- (iv) Utilization of latest Wireless Technologies and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- (v) Standard certification of communication equipment
- (vi) Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR)
- (vii) ICT capacity building
- (viii) Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Block Chain
- (ix) Spectrum Management
- (x) Cooperation on Multilateral platforms
- (xi) Support for activities of industry partners in the field of ICTs in both the countries
- (xii) Cooperation activities between both sides as decided mutually

Another Memorandum of Cooperation on India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) was signed between Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) of India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan on 28th October 2018. This MoC is aimed at extending cooperation between India and Japan in areas of India-Japan

Startup Initiatives, Digital Corporate Partnership, Electronics Ecosystem, Digital talent, R&D cooperation and Security for future networks. MeitY and METI are nodal agencies to coordinate the implementation of MoC. Under such MoC, MeitY Startup Hub & JETRO have signed a partnership agreement to strengthen the Indian & Japanese tech startup ecosystem. Further, Indo-Japanese economic partnership has been strengthened by investments made by Japanese companies in electronics ecosystem.

(b) The cooperation activities envisaged under the MoC facilitate exchange of best practices in the areas of submarine cables and other communication technologies that are relevant for the extension of broadband and internet connectivity in remote areas. One of the highlights of Indo-Japan cooperation in this field has been the Chennai - Andaman Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable Project under which a submarine Optical Fibre Cable of 2300 km length connecting Chennai to Port Blair and other islands of Andaman & Nicobar was completed.

(c) India has flagship programmes like "Digital India", "Smart City" and "Start-up India" and Japan has the concept of "Society 5.0" to promote "Ease of Living" with focus on next-generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data and IoT (Internet of Things) etc. In view

of these complementarities, both the ICT and Digital Cooperation MoC promote mutual cooperation towards realization of smart cities by utilizing state-of-the-art wireless technologies and other emerging technologies.

(d) The activities mentioned in these Memorandum of Cooperation are implemented by both sides within the limits of available resources and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of their respective countries.
