**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 1285**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 6 May 2016**

**QUESTION PAPER NO**: **13**

**DATE OF REPLY:**

**Mrs M R Shinn (DA) to ask the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services:**

(1) Has the Universal Service Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) played any role in the planning of SA Connect; if not, (a) why not and (b) what role will USAASA play in the future planning and rollout of the programme;

(2) (a) what is the estimated cost of (i) planning and (ii) rolling out (aa) Phase 1 and (bb) Phase 2 of SA Connect, (b) what is the detailed breakdown of how this funding will be spent in the (i) 2016-17, (ii) 2017-18 and (iii) 2018-19 financial years and (c) which budget allocation will the specified funds come from in each of the specified financial years?

**NW1433E**

**REPLY:**

**I have been advised by the Department as follows:-**

1. No.

(a) The Department has engaged with USAASA to ensure alignment of the Broadband initiatives being funded through the USAF and SA Connect Phase 1 hence USAASA’s current and future plans are aligned with the SA Connect Phase 1 District Municipalities.

(b) The Department and USAASA will continue to engage to outline the agency roles on SA Connect implementation taking into consideration developments in the sector

1. (aa) (i)-(ii) The estimated cost for Phase1 of SA Connect is R6.56billion

(bb) (i) – (ii) The estimated cost for Phase2 of SA Connect is R67.4 billion

(b) (i)-(iii) Phase 1 detailed breakdown

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase 1 Budget Allocation (Million)** | | | |
| **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **Total** |
| R 516.34 | R 719. 52 | R 720. 37 | R6.56 Billion |

(i)- (iii) Phase 2 detailed breakdown

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase 2 Budget Allocation (Million)** | | | |
| **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **Total** |
| R 823, 9 | R 1, 557 | R 2, 213 | 67.42 Billion |

(c) The funding for Phase 1 will come from Budget allocation MTEF 2016/-2018/19. No allocation for Phase 2