

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 869  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**LACK OF INTERNET FACILITIES**

869. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many places in the country lack internet connectivity, compelling people not to use modern internet facilities;
- (b) the main obstacles to this;
- (c) the percentage of areas in the country suffering from this malady; and
- (d) the ways in which Government plans to overcome these difficulties?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a)to(c) As per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” report published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, there are 72.51 internet subscribers per 100 population in urban areas and 15.56 internet subscribers per 100 population in rural areas as on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The information regarding percentage of areas covered by internet connectivity is not maintained by the Government.

There are various obstacles in proliferation of internet services in the country such as right of way permissions, unviable areas, expensive end user devices etc.

(d) In order to further enhance the internet connectivity in rural areas, Government has planned the BharatNet project to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected. Under Phase-II, to be completed by March 2019, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs.

In addition to above, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum resulting into the increase in internet connectivity in the country.

Also, Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 have been notified by the Government on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to regulate underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over ground infrastructure (mobile towers). Further, end user devices are becoming affordable with increase in volume.

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