

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

ASSESSMENT REGARDING INTERNET PENETRATION RATE

1129. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment regarding internet penetration rate in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to provide free internet connection to the socially and economically underprivileged households;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) to (b) As per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” report released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 01st October 2019 for the period April-June, 2019, there were total 665.31 million internet subscribers in the country. The service area wise internet penetration in the country as on 30th June, 2019 is enclosed as **Annexure**.

(c) to (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) submitted its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on ‘Encouraging Data usage in Rural Areas through Provisioning of Free Data’ dated 19-12-2016.

Government deliberated on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on ‘Encouraging Data usage in Rural Areas through Provisioning of Free Data’. Government decided not to accept the recommendations of TRAI regarding free data to rural subscribers due to following reasons:

- i. The concern with regard to availability of affordable data services has been mitigated through competition in the market.
- ii. For the holistic development of Internet ecosystem in the country, a larger focus is required on connectivity, content availability in local language and Digital literacy.

Licensed service area wise number of internet penetration (Internet Subscribers per 100 population) in the country as on 30th June, 2019

Service Area	Internet Subscribers (in million)			No. of Internet subscribers per 100 population		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Andhra Pradesh	20.95	30.95	51.90	32.17	121.82	57.33
Assam	6.05	6.26	12.32	21.66	110.38	36.62
Bihar	24.01	17.63	41.64	19.55	88.81	29.19
Delhi	0.71	36.38	37.09	93.97	160.81	158.64
Gujarat	11.64	29.77	41.41	30.93	105.12	62.78
Haryana	5.78	9.58	15.36	32.32	88.09	53.42
Himachal Pradesh	3.31	2.04	5.36	51.86	230.24	73.60
Jammu & Kashmir	2.65	4.30	6.95	28.91	117.42	54.20
Karnataka	12.40	29.85	42.25	32.22	116.57	65.92
Kerala	10.40	14.95	25.34	38.20	163.12	69.66
Madhya Pradesh	16.48	26.78	43.26	21.13	88.28	39.93
Maharashtra	20.82	34.36	55.18	34.65	96.40	65.36
Mumbai	1.28	26.50	27.78			
North East	2.87	4.20	7.07	26.87	112.38	49.01
Orissa	10.32	6.49	16.82	29.03	81.17	38.61
Punjab	7.25	16.79	24.04	41.69	114.84	75.11
Rajasthan	16.51	21.64	38.15	28.66	116.77	50.11
Tamil Nadu	11.99	34.97	46.96	44.86	76.68	64.92
UP (East)	24.51	23.41	47.92	20.11	79.75	34.01
UP (West)	12.55	21.26	33.81			
Kolkata	1.55	14.73	16.28	22.79	102.73	45.91
West Bengal	14.23	14.21	28.43			
Total	238.26	427.05	665.31	26.57	101.63	50.52

*Population data/projections are available state-wise only.

- Notes: 1. Number of total internet subscribers per 100 population is derived from the subscriber data provided by the operators and the population projections of the country, published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
2. Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura states
