

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 20
ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026**

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INTERNET

20 SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted any national-level survey or assessment to identify the number of households that do not have access to internet connectivity and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and rural-urban area-wise;
- (b) whether gaps in digital infrastructure and affordability have been identified as major causes of such digital exclusion; and
- (c) the measures proposed to ensure universal access to reliable and affordable internet services across under-served regions?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) The Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom (CMS:T) was conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), during January-March 2025, as a part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS). This survey inter-alia collected data on various aspects of mobile and internet usage at both household and individual levels. The State wise and rural-urban distribution of households without internet access is given in **Annexure-1**.

(b) & (c) The Government has undertaken several measures to ensure universal access to reliable and affordable internet services across underserved regions through funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). In particular, various projects and initiatives, such as the Amended BharatNet Program to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats; the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep; Schemes for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and border villages; and the Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Project to ensure faster rollout of fixed-line broadband/Internet access, mobile services (4G/5G), and other high-speed data services in the islands.

Annexure-1

Annexure referred to reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 20 answered on 29th January 2026 regarding “Universal Access to Internet”

Percentage of households without internet facility within household premises

State/ UT	Rural	Urban	Overall
Andhra Pradesh	26.7	14.6	22.3
Arunachal Pradesh	26.7	9	22.2
Assam	9.7	5.6	9.1
Bihar	12.3	7.1	11.7
Chhattisgarh	17.2	8.6	15.4
Delhi	5.2	2.6	2.6
Goa	15.5	4.7	9.2
Gujarat	14.4	7	10.5
Haryana	7.5	9.4	8.4
Himachal Pradesh	8.6	1.3	7
Jharkhand	16.6	8.4	14.8
Karnataka	13.7	7.9	10.9
Kerala	10.4	6.4	8.3
Madhya Pradesh	17.3	11.4	15.4
Maharashtra	15.3	5.2	10.4
Manipur	3.2	1.2	2.6
Meghalaya	9.8	4.6	8.8
Mizoram	5.3	0.8	3.2
Nagaland	11.8	11.2	11.6
Odisha	24.8	8.6	22
Punjab	12.5	8.3	10.6
Rajasthan	17.2	4.6	13.2
Sikkim	3.5	-	2.4
Tamil Nadu	28.2	13.4	21.1
Telangana	23.9	5.3	15.1
Tripura	21	12.1	18.8
Uttarakhand	10.4	6	8.5
Uttar Pradesh	14.9	11	13.9
West Bengal	18.5	10.9	16
A & N Islands	9	3.4	6.3
Chandigarh	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	18.6	0.8	5.3
Jammu & Kashmir	7.5	6.6	7.3
Ladakh	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Puducherry	21.9	16.5	18.1
All-India	16.7	8.4	13.7

Note: (-) indicates no sample observation

For the purpose of CMS:T, access to internet facility within the household premises, as on date of survey, for any selected household was collected considering both wired and wireless internet connections. If any member of the household is using mobile network internet data, the household is considered to have access to internet facility within the household premises.
