GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2016

INTERNET PENETRATION

121.   SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
          SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has fixed any annual target to increase the customer base of Internet and broadband users across the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof, State-wise, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)   the Internet penetration rates during the last three years, separately in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(d)   the action taken/planned to bridge gap urban and rural;

(e)   whether the internet/broadband services are not satisfactory across the country particularly in rural and different border areas;

(f)   if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received by the BSNL during the each of the last three years and the current year and the steps taken by the Government to improve the broadband services in this regard, State and operator-wise and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a)&b) National Telecom Policy-2012 aims to achieve 175 million Broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 in the country. However, there are no annual and state-wise targets for the same.

(c)   Telecom License Service Area wise internet subscriber base with rural urban break-up, as available only for the year 2015 and 2016 with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)is enclosed as **Annexure-I.**

(d)to(f)   In order to improve the internet/broadband services and bridge the gap between urban and rural internet/broadband penetration, BharatNet project has been planned by the Government to establish a network infrastructure by connecting 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, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by September, 2018. Futuristic network with ring topology is to be used between districts and blocks and blocks and GPs, targeted to be completed by 2023.

As on 06.11.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 62,463 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,43,445 km. Out of these, 12,597 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity. State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 06.11.2016 is enclosed at **Annexure-II.**

As per "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators" report dated 5th August 2016 and "Performance on Quality of Service of Wireless Data Services" report for the quarter ending June, 2016 issued by TRAI, most of the telecom service providers are meeting most of the quality of service parameters prescribed by TRAI for broadband/data services.

In respect of BSNL, TRAI has received 15, 53, 84 and 33 complaints regarding poor speed of broadband/ internet during the year 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (1.1.2016 to 30.06.2016) respectively.

Annexure-I

Internet Subscriber Base as on 31st March, 2015 and 31st March, 2016 (in Millions) (as provided by TRAI)

Sl. No.	Telecom Service Area	31st March 2015			31st March 2016		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	8.15	13.967	22.12	9.13	15.73	24.87
2	Assam	3.25	2.23	5.47	3.21	3.54	6.76
3	Bihar	7.94	8.64	16.59	8.86	10.76	19.63
4	Delhi	1.01	17.49	18.50	0.93	19.66	20.59
5	Gujarat	7.07	12.37	19.44	6.06	15.04	21.10
6	Haryana	3.67	3.47	7.14	2.97	4.59	7.56
7	Himachal Pradesh	1.64	0.94	2.59	1.76	1.28	3.02
8	Jammu & Kashmir	1.79	1.56	3.35	1.83	1.79	3.65
9	Karnataka	6.69	13.41	20.10	5.54	17.09	22.63
10	Kerala	6.14	6.82	12.96	5.57	9.02	14.60
11	Kolkata	0.42	7.59	8.01	0.55	8.72	9.26
12	Madhya Pradesh	6.51	10.12	16.63	6.24	14.17	20.41
13	Maharashtra	9.12	16.40	25.53	9.76	19.72	29.47
14	Mumbai	0.25	14.25	14.50	0.28	15.37	15.65
15	North East	1.92	1.65	3.57	1.97	2.10	4.06
16	Orissa	3.52	3.77	7.30	3.37	4.93	8.29
17	Punjab	5.23	7.65	12.88	4.71	8.75	13.46
18	Rajasthan	7.31	8.47	15.79	7.01	10.25	17.24
19	Tamil Nadu	6.52	17.62	24.14	6.86	21.16	28.01
20	UP (East)	10.66	9.73	20.38	11.21	11.27	22.47
21	UP (west)	6.06	8.14	14.19	6.48	10.04	16.54
22	West Bengal	6.88	4.31	11.19	7.64	5.75	13.38
	Total	111.76	190.60	302.35	111.94	230.71	342.65

Statewise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 06.11.2016

S.No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	Connectivity provided (GPs)
1	Assam	1013	2252	2088	770	243
2	Bihar	5202	8786	7615	2891	333
3	Chhattisgarh	2110	5392	5147	1724	943
4.	Haryana	6090	6257	6244	3871	296
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	624	253	240	118	0
6.	Karnataka	5599	10383	10764	5256	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	826	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	23760	21458	7141	629
9.	Maharashtra	12055	17623	15471	6999	842
10.	Punjab	6128	6471	6213	4290	70
11.	Rajasthan	6967	15980	15005	4834	810
12.	Uttar Pradesh	22514	35083	26645	12406	920
13.	Uttarakhand	1767	2141	1857	1006	216
14.	West Bengal	2713	2641	2534	920	107
15.	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	693	117	22	0
18.	Nagaland	743	2171	818	194	0
19.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	26
20.	Mizoram	163	448	123	5	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1560	1368	641	79
22.	Meghalaya	651	1133	277	80	0
23.	Gujarat	5771	7969	6308	2859	320
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	21	0	0
26.	Telangana	2097	4266	4043	1818	127
27.	Odisha	3388	5801	4962	2091	335
28.	Jharkhand	1428	3046	2920	1202	233
29.	Himachal Pradesh	283	288	196	62	0
30.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total	1,00,289	1,67,202	1,43,445	62,463	12,597

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

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