

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2355
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST AUGUST, 2018**

BROADBAND SERVICES

†2355. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is satisfied with the quality of broadband services being provided in the country;
- (b) if not, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit and or prepared any draft for connecting villages with 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi broadband service under Digital India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures 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) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down the Quality of Service standards for various services through regulations issued from time to time and the performance of service providers against these standards is monitored by TRAI through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports submitted by service providers for the service area as a whole.

As per Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending March 2018, for Broadband Services all the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for all the parameters except M/s Limras Eronet Broadband Service Pvt. Ltd. for the parameter "No. of Upstream links for International connectivity having bandwidth utilisation >90% during peak hours (Time Consistent Busy Hours) {Benchmark is 0 (zero)}", M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. for the parameter "% of faults repaired within 3 working day (benchmark =>99%)", M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. for the parameter "% of faults repaired by next working day (>90%)(benchmark >90%)"and M/s You Broadband India Pvt. Ltd. for the parameter "%age of connections provided within 15 days of registration of demand (benchmark 100%)".

TRAI imposes financial disincentives also, as a deterrent against noncompliance, wherever the quality of service benchmarks are not met by the service providers.

(c) & (d) At least 88% population of the Country is covered by 3G and /or 4G mobile networks.

Government has allocated 965 MHz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum, which is, inter-alia, resulting into enhancement of coverage of 3G and 4G services in the Country.

The following schemes, targeted to be completed within 12 months after award of work, to provide telecom coverage in uncovered areas have also been approved:

- Meghalaya - 2173 locations
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands – 214 locations
- Left Wing Extremism areas Phase-II - 4072 locations.

Further, BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country by March, 2019. Upto 22nd July 2018, 2,84,157 Kms of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid and 1,13,355 GPs have been made service ready. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology is being provided at all the GPs. At each GP, on an average five Access Points (APs) are to be provided (three APs for Government institutions and two APs for public places).

Also, the following schemes, funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), are under implementation for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in country:

- Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at its 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges.
- Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up by CSC-SPV at its 5,000 Gram Panchayats.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by RailTel at 200 rural Railway Stations.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at 200 Gram Panchayats.
