

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH APRIL, 2022**

OPTICAL FIBER PENETRATION

5606. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that broadband as well as optical fiber penetration is very poor in the country compared to other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to increase the broadband as well as optical fiber penetration in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) As per estimation by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), around 63 percent of the world's population was using the internet in 2021. As per the latest "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators" report published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 10th January, 2022, the number of Internet subscribers per 100 population in the country is 60.96 at the end of September, 2021. The Licensed Service area wise details Internet Subscribers per 100 population in the country are at **Annexure-A**.

Further, as per data collected from various Licensed Service providers by field units of Department of Telecommunications, it is estimated that there is around 33 Lakh Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid in the country at the end of December, 2021. The Licensed Service area wise details of OFC laid in the country at the end of December, 2021 is at **Annexure-B**.

As per data collected by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there are about 17.62 million Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Broadband Subscribers in the country at the end of December, 2021 which are around 7 % of the total households in the country. The Licensed Service area wise details of FTTH Broadband Subscribers in the country at the end of December, 2021 is at **Annexure-C**.

(c) to (e) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country mainly through Optical Fibre Cable. On 30.06.2021, the scope of BharatNet was extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country. As on 28.02.2022, a total number of 1,72,361 GPs are made Service Ready in the country.

Further, National Broadband Mission (NBM) was launched on 17th December 2019 with a vision to provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all, objectives of the NBM inter-alia include access to broadband to all villages and accelerate fiberization.

Annexure A

Annexure A referred to in Part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 5606 answer on 06.04.2022.

Licensed Service Area wise number of Internet Subscribers per 100 population at the end of September, 2021

S.N.	Licensed Service Area	Internet Subscribers per 100 population
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.78
2.	Assam	45.72
3.	Bihar	35.55
4.	Delhi	216.76
5.	Gujarat	71.85
6.	Haryana	63.42
7.	Himachal Pradesh	88.80
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	60.95
9.	Karnataka	74.72
10.	Kerala	84.67
11.	Madhya Pradesh	15.68
12.	Maharashtra	101.98
13.	Mumbai	
14.	North East	196.44
15.	Odisha	21.10
16.	Punjab	69.03
17.	Rajasthan	34.90
18.	Tamil Nadu	58.13
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	49.89
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	
21.	Kolkata	82.29
22.	West Bengal	
	Total	60.96

Annexure-B

Annexure B referred to in Part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 5606 answer on 06.04.2022.

Service Area wise Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid in the country at the end of December, 2021

SN	Licensed Service Area	Total OFC laid (in Km)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3,20,882
2	Assam	62,412
3	Bihar	1,40,560
4	Delhi	64,669
5	Gujarat	3,35,135
6	Haryana	75,449
7	Himachal Pradesh	28,769
8	Jammu & Kashmir	31,303
9	Karnataka	1,91,759
10	Kerala	1,55,293
11	Kolkata	45,631
12	Madhya Pradesh	3,12,342
13	Maharashtra	2,71,247
14	Mumbai	40,231
15	North East	42,038
16	Odisha	82,157
17	Punjab	1,62,647
18	Rajasthan	1,91,502
19	Tamil Nadu	1,96,610
20	UP (East)	2,35,759
21	UP (West)	1,42,835
22	West Bengal	1,11,460
	*Others(RailTel)	60,285
		33,00,975

*Licensed area wise data for RailTel is not available.

Annexure C

Annexure C referred to in Part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 5606 answer on 06.04.2022.

Licensed Service Area wise number of Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Broadband Subscribers in the country at the end of December, 2021

S.N	Licensed Service Area	FTTH Broadband subscribers
1	Andhra Pradesh	27,91,981
2	Assam	2,09,725
3	Bihar	3,71,758
4	Delhi	18,07,925
5	Gujarat	7,97,132
6	Haryana	2,91,002
7	Himachal Pradesh	60,573
8	Jammu & Kashmir	2,28,112
9	Karnataka	16,03,282
10	Kerala	15,95,340
11	Kolkata	4,90,127
12	Madhya Pradesh	6,47,148
13	Maharashtra	10,41,585
14	Mumbai	8,18,047
15	North East	1,19,437
16	Odisha	1,80,885
17	Punjab	9,12,371
18	Rajasthan	5,23,062
19	Tamil Nadu	17,77,537
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	5,90,969
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	5,33,693
22	West Bengal	2,26,822
	Grand Total	1,76,18,513
	Grand Total (in million)	17.62
