GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.85
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th FEBRUARY, 2016

PENETRATION AND SPEED OF BROADBAND

85.   SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
       SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
       SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:
       SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:
       SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
       SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether broadband penetration and the speed of broadband is quite low in comparison to the developed countries;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Union Government proposes to rope in private players to improve broadband penetration in the country under its ambitious Bharat Net programme and to increase the current broadband upto 2mbps; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof along with target set for broadband by 2030?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b)   As per the Broadband Commission's annual 'The State of Broadband Report' released on 21 September 2015, the ranking of India in comparison to other countries including the developed one with respect to Fixed and Mobile Broadband penetration for 2014 are at **Annexure-I.**

As per Akamai's State of the Internet: Q3 2015 Report, the average broadband speed in India in comparison to other countries including the developed one are at **Annexure-II.**

(c) & (d)   National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth was to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

Existing broadband speed of 512 kbps was revised from 256 kbps on 18.07.2013. Setting of very high speed for broadband may affect the affordability of broadband particularly for rural people, who will be the major consumers of broadband in the coming years. The network required for supporting high speed broadband need to be put in place in most parts of the country before enhancing the speed. To support high speed broadband network in most parts of the country, particularly in rural areas, NOFN project is under implementation to provide broadband infrastructure to all the GPs.

Ranking of India in comparison to other countries with respect to Fixed and Mobile Broadband penetration for 2014

Country	Fixed Broadband Penetration (per 100 inhabitants)	Rank	Mobile Broadband Penetration (per 100 inhabitants)	Rank
Australia	25.8	39	112.2	11
Bhutan	3.3	109	28.2	101
Brazil	11.5	76	78.1	27
China	14.4	67	41.8	78
Colombia	10.3	79	45.1	72
France	40.2	6	66.2	39
Germany	35.8	14	63.6	41
India	**1.2**	**131**	**5.5**	**155**
Japan	29.3	24	121.4	6
Malaysia	10.1	80	58.3	52
Myanmar	0.3	151	14.9	119
Nepal	0.8	139	17.4	115
Pakistan	1.1	135	5.1	156
Russia	17.5	56	65.9	40
South Africa	3.2	110	46.7	69
South Korea	38.8	7	108.6	13
Sri Lanka	2.6	114	13.0	126
United Kingdom	37.4	9	98.7	18
USA	30.4	23	97.9	19
Venezuela	7.8	89	43.9	73

Average broadband speed in India in comparison to other countries

Country	Average Broadband speed (Mbps)
Australia	7.8
China	3.7
Colombia	4.2
France	8.2
Germany	11.5
India	**2.5**
Japan	15.0
Malaysia	4.9
Russia	10.2
South Africa	3.7
South Korea	20.5
Sri Lanka	5.1
United Kingdom	11.0
USA	12.6
Venezuela	1.2

****