

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.48
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th APRIL, 2016**

BROADBAND INTERNET SPEED

*48. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:
SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

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

- (a) the details of public and private sector companies providing broadband internet services, to the consumers State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any policy or prescribed standard speed for internet broadband;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the various stakeholders thereon;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against the service providers including speed for not adhering to the prescribed norms; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure internet accessibility with high speed in all regions of the country within a fixed timeline and the funds allocated for increasing internet penetration?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2016 REGARDING "BROADBAND INTERNET SPEED".

(a) Madam, as per information provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), telecom service area wise list of public and private sector companies providing broadband internet services to the consumers is enclosed as **Annexure-I**. State wise details in this regard are not maintained by Government.

(b)&(c) Government, vide Notification No. 4-4/202009-Policy-1 dated 18.7.2013, has revised the definition of Broadband as follows:-

"Broadband is a data connection that is able to support interactive services including internet access and has the capability of the minimum download speed of 512 kbps to an individual subscriber from the point of presence (POP) of the service provider intending to provide Broadband service."

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are providing broadband connections at a minimum speed of 2 Mbps. Further, no specific reaction has been received from the stakeholders in this regard.

(d) TRAI has laid down the Quality of Service Standards for Broadband Services and Wireless Data Services, including standards relating to speed, through Quality of Service Regulations issued from time to time. The performance of service providers against these standards are monitored through quarterly performance monitoring reports submitted by service providers.

TRAI has been pursuing with service providers for improving Quality of Service and in this regard regular interactions are held with the service providers. TRAI has also engaged independent agencies for auditing and assessing the quality of service and surveys are being done regularly through independent agencies to assess the customer perception of service. The results of the audit and assessment of quality of service and surveys are published for the information of stakeholders, which also force the service providers to improve the quality of service. Wherever the quality of service benchmarks are not met, TRAI has also been imposing financial disincentives on service providers providing Broadband Service, for failure to comply with the benchmarks, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

(e) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, aims at connecting 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 is 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.

1,10,432 Kms Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) & 1,38,465 Kms of pipe has been laid and 48,199 GPs have been connected with OFC as on 25.04.2016. Under phase-1 of the project, 1 lakh GPs are targeted to be completed by March 2017. Further, as against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 20,100 crore under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), funds to the tune of Rs.4685.97 crore have been utilized till 31.03.2016.

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Annexure-I

**Telecom Service Area wise number of Service Providers reported
Broadband subscriber base for the quarter ending 31.12.2015**

Telecom Service Area	No. of Service Providers	
	Private	Public Sector
Andhra Pradesh	29	4
Assam	17	4
Bihar	20	4
Delhi	37	4
Gujarat	32	4
Haryana	28	4
Himachal Pradesh	16	4
Jammu & Kashmir	13	3
Karnataka	31	4
Kerala	19	4
Kolkata	25	4
Madhya Pradesh	23	4
Maharashtra	32	4
Mumbai	40	4
North East	16	3
Orissa	19	4
Punjab	25	3
Rajasthan	26	4
Tamil Nadu	35	4
Uttar Pradesh (East)	22	3
Uttar Pradesh (West)	31	4
West Bengal	24	4
