

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4016
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH AUGUST, 2016**

BROADBAND PROLIFERATION IN RURAL AREAS

4016. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the broadband proliferation provided in rural areas by each of the Telecom Service Providers (TSP), State and TSP-wise including BSNL;
- (b) whether the private service providers are showing less interest in expansion of the internet service in rural areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof 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) As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there are about 33.29 Million rural broadband subscribers (wireline + wireless) in the country as on 31st March 2016. Out of this, about 4.06 Million rural broadband subscribers have been provided by Public Sector Unit (PSU) service providers namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and rest of the 29.23 Million rural broadband subscribers have been provided by private service providers.

The service area wise details of total number of rural broadband subscribers in the country are enclosed as **Annexure-I**. Further, TSP-wise number of rural broadband subscribers is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

(b)&(c) As per TRAI, there are about 111.94 Million rural internet subscribers in the country as on 31st March 2016. Out of this, 103.89 Million are provided by private service providers and 8.05 Million have been provided by PSU service providers.

The service-area wise number of rural internet connections provided by PSU and private service providers as on 31st March 2016 are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

In order to further improve proliferation of Broadband Services in rural areas, National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project renamed as BharatNet has been planned by the Government to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Under this project, 1,53,340 km pipe and 1,28,813 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have been laid connecting 56,117 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with OFC upto 30.07.2016. Out of these, 7607 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity upto 100 Mbps bandwidth.

Contd....2/-

**Service Area-wise, Rural Broadband subscriber-base as on 31st March, 2016
reported by Service Providers**

Telecom Service Area	No. of Rural Subscribers in Millions
Andhra Pradesh	3.43
Assam	0.84
Bihar	1.95
Delhi	0.45
Gujarat	1.95
Haryana	0.89
Himachal Pradesh	0.74
Jammu & Kashmir	0.67
Karnataka	1.92
Kerala	2.87
Kolkata	0.3
Madhya Pradesh	1.07
Maharashtra	3.18
Mumbai	0.12
North East	0.62
Orissa	0.65
Punjab	1.12
Rajasthan	1.85
Tamil Nadu	3.32
UP (East)	1.81
UP (West)	1.32
West Bengal	2.21
Total	33.29

Contd....3/-

Service Area-wise, Rural Broadband subscriber-base as on 31st March, 2016 reported by Service Providers

Name of the Service Provider	Number of Rural Broadband Subscribers
Bharti Airtel Ltd.	13223860
Idea Cellular Limited*	7025343
Vodafone*	5062051
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	4061131
Aircel	2499028
Reliance Communications	479495
Tata*	473852
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd.	218755
Asianet Satellite Communications Ltd.	87216
GTPL Hathway Private Limited	67517
Apna Telelink Ltd.	14962
Alliance Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	12561
Pioneer eLabs Ltd.	10063
Limras Eronet Broadband Service Pvt Ltd	8019
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	6709
SITI Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	5237
Quadrant Televentures Ltd.	5046
City Online Services Ltd	4709
World Phone Internet Services Pvt Ltd	4676
Netlinx Ltd.	3843
Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	2388
Digital Network associates Pvt. Ltd	2284
Blazenet Ltd.	1725
Kaizen Infonet Pvt Ltd	1539
Siliguri Internet & Cable TV Pvt. Ltd.	976
North East Data Network Pvt Ltd.	877
Capture Network Systems Pvt. Ltd.	805
Ishan Netsol Pvt Ltd	790
Yashash Cable Network Pvt Ltd	653
Airgenie Communications Pvt. Ltd.	638
Meghbela Cable & Broadband Servies (P) Ltd	427
Touch Net India Pvt. Ltd.	395
Correl IT Services Pvt. Ltd.	246
Sphier Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	185
Tamana Winet Pvt. Ltd.	185
Readylink Internet Services Pvt Ltd	141
Swiftmail Communications Ltd.	110
Sab Infotech	94
Shri Vinayagaa Internet Pvt Ltd	58
HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.	31
Bhiwani Communications Pvt. Ltd.	27
Rida Communication Pvt. Ltd.	27
Kappa Internet Services Pvt Ltd.	26
Aeroway Networks Pvt Ltd.	23
Oasis Cable Pvt Ltd.	23
Symbois Creations Pvt. Ltd.	18
CJ Online Pvt. Ltd.	5
Adya Tech One Services Pvt Ltd	4
Sanyog Networks Pvt Ltd	4
Nextgen Communications Ltd.	3
ERNET India	1
Microsense Pvt. Ltd.	1
Total	33,288,782

*Includes Group Companies

Contd...4/-

Annexure-III

Private & PSU wise Rural Internet Subscribers as on 31st March, 2016 as reported by Service Providers

(In Millions)

Telecom Service Area	Internet Rural Subscribers of Private Service Providers	Internet Rural Subscribers of PSU Service Providers
Andhra Pradesh	7.71	1.42
Assam	3.09	0.13
Bihar	8.64	0.23
Delhi	0.92	0.01
Gujarat	5.78	0.28
Haryana	2.69	0.28
Himachal Pradesh	1.45	0.31
Jammu & Kashmir	1.80	0.04
Karnataka	5.10	0.44
Kerala	4.01	1.55
Kolkata	0.55	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	6.02	0.22
Maharashtra	9.15	0.61
Mumbai	0.28	0.00
North East	1.82	0.15
Orissa	3.05	0.31
Punjab	4.33	0.38
Rajasthan	6.64	0.37
Tamil Nadu	6.41	0.44
UP (East)	10.75	0.46
UP (West)	6.28	0.20
West Bengal	7.42	0.22
Total	103.89	8.05
