

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.602
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2016**

INTERNET SUBSCRIBER BASE

602. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of urban and rural Internet subscriber base in the country as on date, State and service provider-wise;
- (b) whether the internet penetration and growth in the country is lagging as against its Asian peers;
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve internet penetration particularly in rural areas; and
- (d) the measures taken to ensure digital literacy among students and adults in rural areas?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) The details of urban and rural internet subscriber base in the country as on 31st March 2016, State and service provider wise are placed at **Annexure-I and Annexure-II**.

(b)&(c) As per ITU statistics 2015 India is ahead of its many Asian peers in terms of Internet growth. However in terms of internet penetration, it is lagging.

The Government has taken various measures to improve internet penetration in rural areas. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by December, 2018. A state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks and with for 5G services and Internet of Things era with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023.

As on 09.07.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 54,023 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,25,642 km. Out of these, 7312 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity.

(d) DeitY has approved the following two Schemes for providing Digital Literacy to the masses:

(i) Scheme for IT Mass Literacy (National Digital Literacy Mission):

A scheme for IT Mass Literacy (now renamed as National Digital Literacy Mission) was approved in March, 2014. The total budget outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 97.02 crore. The duration of the Scheme was initially 18 months, which was later extended up to 30.06.2016. The Scheme aims to train 10 lakh persons. The Scheme has been launched on 21.8.2014 by Hon'ble Prime Minister in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

(ii) Scheme for 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (DISHA) under 'Digital India'

Digital Empowerment of citizens by providing Universal Digital Literacy is an integral component of the vision of 'Digital India' initiative. Keeping this in view, a scheme 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (DISHA) was approved to make 42.5 lakh persons digitally literate in selected households throughout the country. The total budget outlay of the Scheme is Rs 380 crore over a period of 4 years. The Scheme was approved on 09.12.2014 under Digital India Initiative

Both the above Scheme are being implemented concurrently. So far, under the NDLM/DISHA schemes around 72.92 lakh candidates have been trained and approximately 33.15 lakh candidates have been certified. A total of 1952 training partners are involved under these schemes. Out of these Training Partners/ Training Centres, around 57% exist in rural areas (includes around 30,000 CSCs).

Further, in line with the FM's budget announcement, DeitY is formulating a Scheme titled **“Pradhan Mantri Grameen Saksharta Abhiyan” (PMGDISHA)** to digitally literate 6 crore persons from rural India. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) during its meeting held on 06-07-2016 has recommended the proposal.

Service provider-wise subscriber base as on 31st March, 2016

S.No.	Name of the Service Provider	Total Subscribers
1	Bharti Airtel Limited	90,537,790
2	Vodafone	67,552,749
3	Idea Cellular	44,035,828
4	Reliance Communications	39,017,002
5	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	34,091,621
6	Aircel	22,447,287
7	Tata	21,041,242
8	Telenor	13,671,479
9	Sistema Shyam	1,981,489
10	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	1,967,592
11	Videocon	1,213,631
12	Atria Convergence Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	941,006
13	Quadrant Televentures Ltd.	747,574
14	You Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	550,001
15	Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	443,210
16	Tikona	341,221
17	Syscon Infoway Pvt Ltd	194,908
18	Asianet Satellite Communications Ltd.	176,453
19	D-Vois Broadband Private Limited	170,773
20	GTPPL Hathway Private Limited	168,819
21	Alliance Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	132,433
22	SITI Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	121,409
23	Five Network Solution (India) Ltd.	87,184
24	DEN Networks Ltd	76,448
25	Ortel Communication Ltd.	72,482
26	RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.	70,731
27	Honesty Net Solutions (I) Pvt Ltd	60,805
28	Meghbela Cable & Broadband Servies (P) Ltd	45,319
29	Citycom Networks Pvt. Ltd.	44,788
30	Indusind Media & Communications Limited	43,363
31	Broadband Pacenet (I) Pvt. Ltd.	42,558
32	Nextra Teleservices Pvt. Ltd.	37,768
33	Tata Communications Limited	36,735
34	Home Systems Pvt. Ltd.	32,684
35	R.K. Infratel Limited	29,459
36	Wish Net Pvt. Ltd.	25,146
37	Chandra Net Pvt. Limited	23,646
38	Digital Network associates Pvt. Ltd	23,023
39	Vasai Cable Pvt. Ltd.	22,561
40	Limras Eronet Broadband Service Pvt Ltd	22,335
41	Rajesh Multi Channel Pvt. Ltd.	21,621
42	Excitel Broadband Private Limited	17,700
43	Apna Telelink Ltd.	14,962
44	Southern Online Bio Technologies Ltd.	13,783
45	World Phone Internet Services Pvt Ltd	13,266
46	GBPS Networks Pvt. Ltd.	13,263
47	North East Dataa Network Pvt Ltd.	11,258
48	Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	11,238
49	Pioneerelabs	10,424
50	Ishan Netsol Pvt Ltd	10,054
51	City Online Services Ltd	9,766
52	Yashash Cable Network Pvt Ltd	9,668

S.No.	Name of the Service Provider	Total Subscribers
53	Geocity Network Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	9,541
54	Wan and Lan Internet Pvt. Ltd.	8,688
55	SmartLink Broadband Services	8,617
56	Kappa Internet Services Pvt Ltd.	8,558
57	Blazenet Ltd.	7,602
58	IKF Technologies Ltd	6,849
59	Spacenet Internet Services Pvt Ltd	5,791
60	Nettlinx Ltd.	5,170
61	Intermedia Cable Communication Pvt Ltd	5,095
62	CJM Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.	5,015
63	Kaizen Infonet Pvt Ltd	4,989
64	Narmada Cyberzone Pvt Ltd	4,955
65	Siliguri Internet & Cable TV Pvt. Ltd.	4,502
66	CJ Online Pvt. Ltd.	4,319
67	Rajesh Patel Net Services Pvt. Ltd.	3,974
68	Swiftmail Communications Ltd.	3,669
69	United Telecoms Ltd.	3,497
70	Sify Technologies Ltd.	3,480
71	HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.	3,434
72	Sikka Broadband(P) Ltd.	3,218
73	Shri Omkar Infocom Pvt. Ltd.	3,010
74	F/X Wireless Technology Services Pvt. Ltd.	2,811
75	Readylink Internet Services Pvt Ltd	2,524
76	Multinet (Udaipur) Pvt. Ltd.	2,150
77	Hughes Communications India Ltd.	2,131
78	Speed Online.net Pvt. Ltd.	2,125
79	Fusionnet Web Services Pvt. Ltd.	2,086
80	Star Broadband Services (I) Pvt Ltd	1,862
81	Capture Network Systems Pvt. Ltd.	1,797
82	Touch Net India Pvt. Ltd.	1,698
83	Sphier Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	1,597
84	Hathway Bhawani Cabletel & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	1,554
85	S.S.Netcom Pvt Ltd	1,492
86	WE Internet Limited	1,321
87	Digital2Virtual ISP Pvt. Ltd.	1,259
88	STN Communication & Advertising Pvt Ltd.	1,221
89	Symbois Creations Pvt. Ltd.	1,138
90	Harisree CableNet Pvt. Ltd.	835
91	Aeroway Networks Pvt Ltd.	828
92	delDSL Internet Pvt Ltd	828
93	Data Infosys Ltd.	743
94	Sab Infotech	699
95	Elyzium Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	678
96	Rajdhani Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	643
97	Airgenie Communications Pvt. Ltd.	638
98	NetMagic Solutions(P) Ltd.	591
99	Primenet Global Ltd.	574
100	Bhiwani Communications Pvt. Ltd.	573
101	Correl IT Services Pvt. Ltd.	490
102	Gleam Worldwide Services Pvt. Ltd.	395
103	Japra Tele Link Pvt. Ltd.	368
104	Rida Communication Pvt. Ltd.	365
105	Microsense Pvt. Ltd.	234
106	Conjoinix Technologies Pvt Ltd	232
107	QBC Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	226

S.No.	Name of the Service Provider	Total Subscribers
108	ERNET India	225
109	Pulse Telesystems Pvt. Ltd.	211
110	Gorakhpur Net Services Pvt. Ltd.	199
111	Nextgen Communications Ltd	185
112	Tamana Winet Pvt. Ltd.	185
113	Khetan Cable Network (P) Ltd	174
114	Oasis Cable Pvt Ltd.	153
115	Shri Vinayagaa Internet Pvt Ltd	143
116	Trans Virtual Pvt. Ltd.	127
117	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	126
118	Pacific Internet India Pvt. Ltd.	112
119	Singh Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	93
120	Dream Plus Multi Services Pvt. Ltd.	89
121	Sanyog Networks Pvt Ltd	72
122	Edge Telecommunications Pvt. Ltd.	68
123	AT&T Global Network Services India Pvt. Ltd.	49
124	Verizon Communications India Pvt. Ltd.	47
125	Adya Tech One Services Pvt Ltd	43
126	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corp. Ltd.	43
127	VIVA Communications Pvt Ltd	42
128	Jetspot Networks Pvt. Ltd.	25
129	Essel Shyam Communications Limited	17
130	Vcare Call Centres India Pvt. Ltd.	17
131	Novanet India Ltd.	16
132	Airmesh Communications Limited	15
133	Financial Technologies Communications Ltd.	14
134	Tatanet Services Ltd	9
135	Nelco Ltd.	6
136	ABT Ltd.	5
137	Orange Business Services India Network Pvt. Ltd.	5
138	Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd	1
Total		342,654,750
Total (in Millions)		342.65

Note: * Some wireless service providers exclude incidental data users from their subscriber base, based on minimum usage decided by them.

Source: TRAI

**Service Area-wise, Rural/Urban subscriber-base of Internet
as on 31st March, 2016**

[Subscribers in Millions]

Telecom Service Area	Total	
	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	9.13	15.73
Assam	3.21	3.54
Bihar	8.86	10.76
Delhi	0.93	19.66
Gujarat	6.06	15.04
Haryana	2.97	4.59
Himachal Pradesh	1.76	1.28
Jammu & Kashmir	1.83	1.79
Karnataka	5.54	17.09
Kerala	5.57	9.02
Kolkata	0.55	8.72
Madhya Pradesh	6.24	14.17
Maharashtra	9.76	19.72
Mumbai	0.28	15.37
North East	1.97	2.10
Orissa	3.37	4.93
Punjab	4.71	8.75
Rajasthan	7.01	10.25
Tamil Nadu	6.86	21.16
UP (East)	11.21	11.27
UP (West)	6.48	10.04
West Bengal	7.64	5.75
Total	111.94	230.71
	342.65	

Source: TRAI
