

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3362  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000  
INTERNET SERVICE SECTOR  
ANANTA NAYAK

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have received the subscriber base in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) after opening up of the Internet service sector;
- (b) if so, the details of comparative position in subscriber base earlier and now;
- (c) the extent to which the subscriber base has been increased; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expand the Internet Service Sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c):

	VSNL		MTNL	
Year	Customers	% growth	Year	Customers

Dec`96 21,547

Dec`97 60,776 182%

Dec`98 1,72,000 183% Feb`99 to

Dec`99 2,95,000 71% July, 2000 40,713

July, 2000 4,46,000 51% for 7months

VSNL had an annual growth rate of about 180%, before the sector opened and it dropped to about 71% later

MTNL started its Internet Services on 9th Feb 1999, only after opening up of the Internet serviceSector and therefore % growth year wise not given.

(d)

(i) Government is providing access to the nearest Internet Node on local call basis in all the District Headquarters of the country except Kargil and Poonch in J & K State.

(ii) 20% concessions on rental for leased lines for Internet access is being given by Government at present.

(iii) Recognized Educational Institute/Government organisations/Newspapers and News Agencies are presently being given 50% concession on port charges by Government. 100% Export Oriented Units(having annual export turn over above US \$ 1,00,000). Software exporters are also getting 20% concession on annual port charges.

(iv) It is proposed to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March, 2001.