

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006

BROADBAND INTERNET FACILITY .

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

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

- (a) Whether the Government has allegedly failed in providing cheap and highspeed broadband internet facility throughout the country as reported in the Hindi daily Dainik Jagaran dated June 7, 2006;
- (b) If so, the details in this regard;
- (c) The number of broadband connections issued in the country so far;
- (d) The number of applicants on the waiting list seeking broadband internet connections as on date;
- (e) Whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed to consider wireless scheme for development of broadband network;
- (f) If so, the details thereof; and
- (g) The efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. Broadband is defined as an `always-on` data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the minimum download speed of 256 kilo bits per second (kbps) to an individual subscriber. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are providing broadband services at Rs.250 and Rs.199 per month respectively which are affordable, reasonable and competitive.
- (c) As on 30.6.2006, there are about 1.55 million broadband subscribers as per information received from major Internet service providers.
- (d) The number of applicants on the waiting list seeking broadband Internet connections of BSNL is around 10,000.
- (e) & (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently recommended for consideration for de-licensing of frequency 5.150 - 5.350 GHz and 5.725 - 5.875 GHz for outdoor usage and identification of additional spectrum, which are not in high usage for the provision of broadband services.
- (g) The issue related to de-licensing of frequency bands 5.150 - 5.350 GHz and 5.725- 5.875 GHz for outdoor usage/ applications has been discussed with the existing users. At present, the de-licensing of these frequency bands for outdoor usage has not been possible in view of existing assignments.