GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1597
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
PROVISION OF LOW COST COMPUTERS
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

(a) the percentage of people having access to Computer and Internet in the country,State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make available low cost computers to ridge the digital divide in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be provided?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): India has an installed base of around 30 million computers for a population of 1.2 billion (PC penetration about 2.5%). The total number of Internet subscribers is 15.16 million as on December, 2009. Details as per State -wise data are at Annexure. Assuming 5 users per subscription, there will be 76 million users (Internet penetration approx. 6.3%).

(b),(c) and (d): Government is providing subsidy through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) t o spread the broadband connectivity i n rural areas including supply o f low cost computers. Government has taken steps t o promote electronic hardware manufacturing covering investment and favourable tariff regimes.