

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2927

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

PROVISION OF BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTIONS

Ananth Kumar Shri ;Choudhary Shri Harish;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Patel Shri Devji;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Premdas Shri ;Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to provide Broadband Internet connections including all the Gram Panchayats of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided in all the urban and rural areas including all the Gram Panchayats of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (b) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to expand Broadband coverage to connect every Gram Panchayat by 2012. The Circle-wise details of broadband coverage by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during the last 3 years and the current year are given in Annexure I & II respectively.

(c) Subsidy support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for wire-line broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas, including Gram Panchayats, by leveraging the existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network. By the year 2014, the estimated subsidy outflow is Rs. 1500 crore.

BSNL has invested approximately Rs. 2200 crore for urban and rural landline broadband connections till 31st March 2009. Likely expenditure for covering the remaining Gram Panchayats is about Rs. 82 crore.

MTNL is providing broadband internet connections on demand.

(d) BSNL has planned to make all rural and urban telephone exchange areas as broadband enabled by March, 2012.