

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4815  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
NUMBER OF INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS  
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether the Internet Service Providers are permitted to obtain bandwidth from foreign satellites in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Internet Nodes set up by the Government in the country Secondary Switching Area (SSA)-wise;
- (d) whether Government has any proposal to revisit the National Frequency Allocation Plan adopted by the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of authorised Internet Service Providers in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As per "Guidelines and general information for grant of licence for operating Internet Services" dated 24.08.2007, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are permitted to set up International Internet Gateway using foreign satellite after obtaining necessary approvals.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have set up 34216 Internet nodes covering all the Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) in the country with at least one Internet node in each SSA.

(d) & (e) National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP), 2008 has been made effective since 1st April, 2009 after its review. As per policy, NFAP is reviewed generally every two years within the framework of Radio Regulations of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Government priorities.

(f) The number of authorized Internet Service Providers having licence to provide internet services in category 'A', 'B' and 'C' service areas in the country as on 31st March 2007, 31st March 2008, 31st March 2009 and 31st March 2010 are given in the Annexure.