

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3735
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INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of household Internet subscribers in the country is less as compared to other countries like China;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the total number of Internet subscribers in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make Internet connectivity affordable to common man?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): As per the Internet World Stats data on top 20 countries with Highest Number of Internet Users; India ranks fourth with 81 million users. China ranks number one with 360 million users.

(c) : The total number of Internet subscribers in the country during each of the last three years, state wise details are at Annexure.

(d) : The Steps taken/being taken by the Government to make Internet connectivity affordable to common man, inter-alia are as under:-

Introduction of broadband wireless Access (BWA) services.

Process of Allotment of spectrum for 3G and BWA services to the private operators through e-auction.

Providing wire line broadband connections to Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools, Public Health Centres etc., under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme.

Supply of PCs to the rural areas under USOF scheme.

USOF is working on a scheme for providing financial assistance by way of subsidy for the wireless broadband active infrastructure such as BTS, by utilizing the existing passive infrastructure available with the Telecom service providers. This scheme would provide broadband coverage of about 2 lakh villages.

Under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) access to Internet is facilitated through the Common Service Centres (CSCs). 100,000 CSCs are being set up in Public Private Partnership(PPP) mode covering 600,000 villages. Till date 76,000 CSCs have been set up.