

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:314

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010

INCREASE IN BROADBAND PENETRATION

Ananth Kumar Shri ;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) the present level of broadband penetration in the country, State-wise, urban/rural area-wise and its comparison with other major developing and developed countries in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase access of broadband in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the existing wireless technology is capable to deliver broadband facilities to the urban and rural areas on a larger scale; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 314 FOR 16TH AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING "INCREASE IN BROADBAND PENETRATION".

(a) The details of Broadband penetration in the country and its comparison with other major developing and developed countries, are given in the Annexure. State-wise and Urban/Rural break-up of Broadband connections is available for BSNL/MTNL and is included in the Annexure.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the broadband penetration are as under:

i. Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been amended to enable provision of USOF support for Broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas. An agreement has been signed by USOF with BSNL for providing 8,88,832 wire-line broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions and will set up 28,672 Kiosks over a period of 5 years, i.e. by 2014. The USOF subsidy disbursement is for Broadband connections, Customers Premise Equipments (CPE), Computer/computing devices, setting up of kiosks for public access to broadband services. The estimated subsidy outflow is Rs.1500 crores. As on 30th June 2010, 1,72,417 broadband connections have been provided under the Scheme. With the amendment in Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, USOF can also be utilized to incentivise spread of Broadband services through wireless.

ii. Further, to increase broadband penetration in urban and rural areas, BSNL is taking following steps:

1. BSNL has plans to make 27,000 landline Rural Exchanges Broadband-enabled. Out of this, Broadband service has already been enabled in 23,321 rural exchanges.

2. BSNL has launched high speed Broadband (upto 24 Mbps) through Very High Speed Digital Subscribers Line(VDSL) technology.

3. It is introducing many value added services like Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), Games on demand, Entertainment, Broadband over Virtual Private Network (VPN), Video conferencing etc.

4. Providing Broadband connectivity to Universities and Colleges under the National Mission for Education project of Ministry of HRD.

(d) & (e) The Broadband Policy, 2004 has defined the Broadband as An 'always-on' data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the minimum down-load speed of 256 kbps to an individual subscriber from the Point of Presence (POP) of Service Provider. As per TRAI, the existing 2G wireless technology is not capable of providing Broadband access speed of 256 kbps, however, 3G Technology is capable of providing broadband speed of 256 kbps and above. It may be further noted that Government has already completed auction for the award of 3G & Broadband Wireless Access (BWA)

spectrum in June 2010 and rollouts are expected soon.