

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
INCREASE IN BROADBAND PENETRATION
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the penetration of broadband connections in the country both in the urban and rural areas separately;
- (b) whether any targets for achieving the same have been fixed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has laid the requisite optical fibre cable network to ensure high definition internet, TV and high quality video communication services in the country;
- (e) if so, the details of the targets fixed in this regard; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f) 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 (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 FOR 6TH DECEMBER, 2010 REGARDING "INCREASE IN BROADBAND PENETRATION"

(a) Government is actively working on formulation of a 'National Broadband Plan'. TRAI consultation with stakeholders on the subject, is underway and its recommendations are awaited. The National Broadband Plan would address Broadband connectivity to all the Villages, including through Optical Fibre Cable, as required. However, no final decision has been taken in the matter so far.

Following initiatives have already been taken by the Government to increase the penetration of Broadband connection in the country:

Allotment of Spectrum for 3G and BWA services to the private operators through auction. This will facilitate proliferation of broadband through mobile handset and wireless technology

Permitting Sharing of infrastructure to the Service providers

Setting up of 1,00,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) by DIT by 2010 which will provide access of broadband.

The Indian Telegraph Rules have been amended, and stream IV has been added under the title "Provision of broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner" to bring provisioning of broadband connectivity to the rural areas under the purview of the USOF.

USOF schemes for supporting shared infrastructure for mobile services in rural and remote areas. These towers will also be used to provide Broadband connectivity in the newly covered Block/Taluka headquarters.

USOF, through BSNL, has started 'Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme' to provide wire-line broadband connectivity to rural & remote areas by leveraging the existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network. Under this scheme, BSNL will provide 8,88,832 wire-line Broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions over a period of 5-years, i.e., by 2014. The estimated subsidy outflow is Rs. 1500 crore in 5 years. As of October 2010, a total of 2,25,266 broadband connections have been provided and 430 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas.

(b) & (c) The following targets have been fixed for provision of broadband:

20 million Broadband connections by 2010.

All Government Higher Secondary Schools will be provided with broadband connectivity in progressive manner by the end of year 2012.

As part of e-Governance Project, all Public Health Centres will be provided with broadband connectivity in a progressive manner by the end of year 2012.

Broadband service is planned to be made available in all District and Taluk headquarters in a progressive manner which will provide platform for various e-governance projects.

Broadband for all Gram Panchayats by the year 2012.

(d) to (f) BSNL/MTNL is continuously laying fibre in their network to meet ever increasing demand for bandwidth for data and multimedia service.

A A State Of The Art IP/ MPLS Networks was set up by MTNL for providing High Definition TV, games data & security and world class communication infrastructure, across different games Venue during the CWG - 2010 held in Delhi.

BSNL

BSNL has planned intra city OFC in 553 cities and out of which nearly 420 cities have been covered. The left out cities will be covered in a phased manner by 2014

Wi-Max & 3G services are used to cover areas which remain uncovered with wireline broadband.

3G services from BSNL rolled out from March 2009 and as on 30.9.2010 3G services are available in 634 cities with 1.8 million total customers.

MTNL

Achievement of MTNL for the laying of OFC for the year 2010-11 is as under:

Target Achievement (till October 2010)

Additional Optical Fibre 40,000 FKm 40,923.50 F Km
Cable (in Fibre KM)

3G services from MTNL have been provided to all 50.25 lakh customers.