

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1109

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to draw a time-bound action plan for ensuring broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in the country,
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether the Government has set up any broadband target under the Broadband Policy, 2004;
- (d) if so, the extent to which it has been achieved as on date; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government, under Bharat Nirman II Programme, has set a target of broadband coverage of all 2,50,000 Village Panchayats by 2012. As of September 2010, a total of 97,426 Village Panchayats have been broadband enabled.

(c) The `National Broadband Policy 2004` envisioned creation of adequate infrastructure through various access technologies alongwith the penetration of PC, which would contribute to the overall growth of Broadband services.

The targets for Broadband Subscribers for the country were as follows:

Year Ending Broadband Subscribers

2005 3 million

2007 9 million

2010 20 million

(d) As of August 2010, 10.08 million broadband connections have been provided in India.

(e) The main constraints in achieving the Broadband Targets:

- i High cost of network expansion
- ii Right of way issues in laying optical fibre
- iii. High backhaul cost
- iv. Low PC penetration
- v High cost of Customer Premises Equipment
- vi Low literacy levels
- vii. Lack of locally relevant content
- viii. Poor power supply.