

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:481

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

BROADBAND PENETRATION

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a roadmap for broadband penetration in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the low internet connections in the rural areas;
- (d) if so, the comparative data on the internet connections in the rural and the urban areas; and
- (e) the percentage increase in the internet connections during the last three years and the current year, separately for urban and rural areas, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 481 FOR 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 REGARDING "BROADBAND PENETRATION"

(a) & (b) 1. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations dated 8th December 2010 on the National Broadband Plan. This Plan, inter-alia, includes the following:-

i) "National Broadband Network will be established. This network will be an open access optical fibre network connecting all habitation with population of 500 and above. This Network will be established in two phases. The first phase covering all cities, urban areas and Gram Panchayats will be completed by the year 2012. Phase-II will see the extension of the network to all the habitations having a population of more than 500, to be completed by the year 2013. (Para 7.4)

ii) The National Broadband Plan envisages provision of 75 million broadband connections (17 million Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), 30 million cable and 28 million wireless broadband) by the year 2012 and 160 million broadband connections (22 million DSL, 78 million cable and 60 million wireless broadband) by the year 2014." (Para 7.10)

2. Department of Telecommunications has formulated a proposal for setting up of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) to extend the existing optical fiber network up to 2.5 lakh Village Panchayats. The objective is to provide fast and reliable broadband connectivity upto Panchayat level by utilizing funding from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and creating an institutional mechanism for management and operation of the same for ensuring non-discriminatory access to all service providers.

The proposal for creation of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for providing Broadband connectivity to Panchayats has been recommended by the Telecom Commission. The process of interministerial consultation for the proposed scheme is complete. The proposal is shortly being submitted to the Cabinet for approval of the scheme.

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

i) Allotment of Spectrum for 3G and BWA services to commercial operators through auction. This will facilitate proliferation of broadband through mobile handset and wireless technologies.

ii) Permitting Sharing of passive infrastructure amongst the Service providers.

iii) 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.

iv) USOF schemes for supporting shared infrastructure for mobile services in rural and remote areas are under implementation. These

towers will also be used to provide Broadband connectivity in rural areas.

v) 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. As of July 2011, a total of 3,06,443 broadband connections have been provided under this scheme.

(c) to (e) 1. The total internet connections as well as overall percentage increase in internet connections during the last three years and the current year is as follows:-#

Year	Total Internet Connections (in millions)	% Increase over previous year
2008-2009	13.54	22.09%
2009-2010	16.18	19.50%
2010-2011	19.67	21.57%
2011-2012 (till June-2011)	20.32	21.53%

increase from June 2010 to June 2011 #Source -TRAI

2. The cumulative wireline broadband connections as well as percentage increase of wireline broadband in rural and urban areas is given below:-

Year	Cumulative broadband connections (wireline) (in thousands)	Rural Cumulative broadband connections (wireline) (in thousands)	Urban Cumulative broadband connections (in thousands)	%increase (Rural)	%Increase (Urban)
2008-2009	228.696	3328.775	-	63.78	
2009-2010	518.073	4857.908	126.53	45.94	
2010-2011	815.881	6674.742	57.48	37.4	
2011-2012 (till July-2011)	870.746	7088.226	6.72	6.19	

Source-BSNL (contains number of broadband wireline connections of BSNL only)