

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

BROADBAND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS .

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any timeframe for linking of all villages with broadband in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the targets achieved in this regard so far, Statewise;
- (c) the name of broadband service providers in North Eastern Regions other than BSNL;
- (d) whether the broadband services are functioning properly in the country including Uttar Pradesh;and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has 'Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme' to increase broadband penetration in the rural and remote areas of the country. USOF has signed an Agreement with BSNL on January 20, 2009 under this Scheme which was launched to provide wire-line broadband connectivity to rural & remote areas by leveraging the existing rural exchange infrastructure and copper wire-line network. The objective is to make the rural and remote areas broadband enabled by facilitating the service providers in creating Broadband infrastructure.

Under this scheme, BSNL will provide 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.

Under this scheme, as of October 2011, a total of 3,29,169 broadband connections have been provided.

The state-wise achievement is at Annexure-I. Further, BSNL has already covered more than 1.70 Lakh villages through broadband services.

(c) As on date 107 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have licence to provide internet services, including broadband, in North Eastern Regions or a specific north eastern region/state/district. ISPs with Service area "All India" can provide services all over India including North Eastern Regions. The list of these ISP Companies along with their service areas is at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has informed that broadband services are functioning properly in the country including Uttar Pradesh.