

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1121
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
INTERNET FACILITY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Internet facility is available in the country especially in rural areas of the country including Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise and provide the Internet facility in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Internet facility is available in the country including the rural areas. This includes rural areas of Orissa also.
- (b) The details of State-wise Internet subscribers as on 31st March 2009 are given in the Annexure.
- (c) Steps taken by the Government to popularize and provide Internet and Broadband facility in the country include the following:-
 - (i) To bring the provisioning of Broadband Internet connectivity under the purview of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), the Indian Telegraph Rules have been amended and stream IV has been added under the title "Provision of broadband connectivity to villages in the phased manner".
 - (ii) Under the programme of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), Department of Information Technology has planned establishment of 1 lakh kiosks called the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas to provide Internet facility in about 6 lakh villages with Public Private Partnership (PPP) through establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWAN). In Orissa out of total planned 8558 Common Service Centres (CSCs), 2478 CSCs have been established till June 2009.
 - (iii) Education and Research Network (ERNET) India is providing Internet facility to academic and research institutes, Government organizations, private sector Research & Development (R&D) organizations and various other non-commercial organizations all over the country including rural areas of the country.