

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1178

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

EXPANSION OF BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the rural tele-density and expand broadband connectivity to connect every Panchayat to a broadband network in the country during the current financial year and the next two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and expenditure likely to be incurred for the said purpose during the current financial year; and
- (d) the extent of coverage proposed during the current financial year in Orissa and Gujarat?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Out of about 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country, 30,000 Gram Panchayats have been provided with broadband connectivity. It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in a progressive manner by the end of 2012.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an agreement with BSNL for subsidy disbursement for providing 9 lakh wireline broadband connections including customer premises equipment and computer/computing devices in rural and remote areas.

(c) The amount of Rs. 120 crore and Rs. 290 crore has been allocated by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) respectively for expansion of Rural broadband during current financial year i.e. 2009-10.

(d) 575 villages panchayats out of 6236 in Orissa & 109 panchayats out of 14506 in Gujarat have been planned to be covered with Broadband during 2009-2010.