

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4331
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
INDIA S INHERENT CAPACITY IN IT
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has been ranked 69 among 142 nations in inherent capacity to leverage information and communications technologies and fall behind in personal computer ownership, internet users, broadband and mobile subscription and capacity;
- (b) if so, the comparative details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to correct the situation in future?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. India is placed at an overall rank of 69 in the Networked Readiness Index of World Economic Forum.
- (b): The following table gives the comparative details of India with other BRICs nations:

S.No	Index	Variable	Brazil	India	China	South Africa
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1	Overall		65	69	51	72
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2	Usage	Individual Usage	66	117	82	96
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An analysis of the Usage Sub index with respect to Individual Usage is given below:

The sub Index relating to individual usage largely comprises of variables that focus on ownership rather than access to technology

It does not take into account shared access models developed and widely used such as cyber cafes or Common Services Centres (CSCs) or National Knowledge Network that provides access to high speed data communication to academic institutions

(c): The following steps undertaken by Government of India will contribute towards improvement of access to ICTs in India:

(i) National Fiber Optics Network (NOFN) will provide broadband gigabit connectivity up to Panchayat level and will have a very positive impact on Individual Usage as well as infrastructure and digital content sub-indices.

(ii) As declared by the Hon'ble President in her address to the Joint Session of the Parliament, upscaling of CSC Scheme from 100,000 to 250,000 to cover all Panchayats will ensure access to Government services to citizens in all parts of the country including remote areas.