

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

INTERNET BROADBAND SERVICES

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

- (a) the target set and achieved under Broadband Policy, 2004 in the country since its inception, year and State-wise;
- (b) whether the internet broadband penetration in the country is lagging behind as compared to other countries and the Government has failed to achieve the target set for providing internet connections in the country during the last two years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has allotted tender to private players for providing internet broadband connection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose, company-wise and State-wise along with the results achieved as a result thereof; and
- (e) the complaints received for unsatisfactory internet services and disposed of during the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) (I) The target for Internet and Broadband subscribers in the country as given in Broadband policy 2004 and achievements are as follows:

| Year   | Internet Subscribers | Broadband Subscribers |            |               |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| Ending | Target               | Achievement           | Target     | Achievement   |
| 2005   | 6 million            | 6.70 million          | 3 million  | 0.903 million |
| 2007   | 18 million           | 10.36 million         | 9 million  | 3.13 million  |
| 2010   | 40 million           | 18.69 million         | 20 million | 10.99 million |

No state-wise target is mentioned in the Broadband Policy 2004. As on 31st December 2012, total Internet subscribers are 25.3 million which include 14.98 million Broadband subscribers.

(II) The main impediments which are hindering the growth of internet / broadband are as under,

- i. Lack of interest by private operators, for broadband network expansion in rural areas , being non-remunerative
- ii. Difficulty in laying of OFC network due to issues related to right of way clearances and high cost of right of way charges
- iii. High backhaul cost
- iv. Low PC penetration
- v. High cost of Customer Premises Equipment (CPEs)
- vi. Low literacy levels
- vii. Lack of local content

(c) No, Madam

(d) Does not arise

(e) The complaints received and disposed of including the unsatisfactory internet services during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure I.