

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1337

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

BROADBAND ACCESS TO VILLAGES

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

- (a) the number of villages that have already been given broadband access under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), State-wise;
- (b) the funds released by the Union Government for the project during the last three years and the current year, operator-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the criteria adopted for selecting the villages under the scheme and the villages likely to be covered under 12th Five Year Plan, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (d) the rates at which the broadband facilities are being provided in rural areas; and
- (e) the details of internet broadband penetration in the country in comparison to other nations?

Answer

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

- (a) 169201 villages have already been given Broadband access under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The state wise detail is enclosed at Annexure-I
- (b) The funds released by the USOF for the project during the last three years and the current year are enclosed at Annexure-II.
- (c) The villages connected by wireline from existing rural telephones exchanges of BSNL, where data speed of 512 kbps is feasible are selected for coverage under the scheme. An estimated nos. of 20,100 villages are likely to be covered during 12th five year plan. State-wise list including Madhya Pradesh is enclosed at Annexure-III.
- (d) The rates at which the Broadband facilities are being provided in rural areas for which agreement exist between USOF and BSNL are:
 - (i) USOF plan 99 (Monthly charge of Rs.99/-for broadband speed of 512 Kbps.)
 - (ii) USOF Plan 150 (Monthly charge of Rs.150/-for broadband speed of 512 Kbps.)
- (e) The details of fixed broadband subscribers in the country, in comparison to other nations, as provided by TRAI is enclosed at Annexure-IV.