

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2748
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
BROADBAND SUBSCRIBERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of broadband centres and the subscribers at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more broadband centres in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Government has planned to set up about 1 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) to provide Government services including access of broadband connectivity to citizens in rural areas as per the details given in ANNEXURE-I .

As on 31.10.2009, there are about 7.19 million broadband subscribers in the country. The details are given in ANNEXURE-II.

The Government has planned to expand broadband coverage to connect every Gram Panchayat to a broadband network by May 2012.

For promoting the growth of broadband, the steps taken/being taken by the Government inter- alia are as under:

Indian Telegraph Act 1885 has been amended to enable provision of USOF support for broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas.

An agreement has been signed by USOF with BSNL for providing wire-line broadband connections in and around 28,000 villages/rural locations over a period of 5-years, i.e., by 2014. The subsidy disbursement is for broadband connections, Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), computer/ computing devices, setting up of kiosks for public access to broadband services. The estimated subsidy flow is Rs. 1500 crores.