

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4565
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the number of Internet subscribers of all the telecom companies has increased in the country in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the various Internet connection plans of Public Sector Companies are comparatively expensive;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to lower the prices of the various internet connection plans in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Madam, as reported by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Internet subscribers in the country have increased from 238.71 million in December 2013 to 251.59 million in March 2014, thereby showing a growth rate of 5.40%.

(c) to (f) Public Sector telecom companies are offering affordable tariff plans with competitive pricing depending on the competition in the respective States. Further, as per the present tariff framework in the country, the tariff for broadband services is under forbearance. The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including public sector companies have the flexibility to offer different tariff plans and schemes for broadband with multiple combinations of fixed charges, periods of validity, download/upload speeds and usage charges. Different tariff combinations are being offered by the telecom service providers depending on the market conditions and other commercial conditions.