

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1484
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN VILLAGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the broadband services of the various service providers are functioning properly in the country especially in rural areas including in Gujarat;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Government is concerned about the quality and coverage of Broadband services in the country. As per sample Audit and Assessment report of Quality of Service (QoS) of broadband service providers conducted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in 5 service areas from January to March 2014, most of the service providers are complying with the performance benchmarks on most of the parameters. Broadband services get affected in rural areas primarily due to poor availability of electricity supply, faults due to cut in copper cable/optical fiber due to road widening works and other similar developmental activities by local bodies

(c) (i) Government has increased the minimum download speed of 512 kilo bits per second (kbps) for broadband connectivity instead of 256kbps.

(ii) Government is implementing the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for connecting all the Gram Panchayats(GPs) through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) at an estimated cost of Rs.20,000 Crore. Once completed, bandwidth of 100 mbps (mega bits per second) would be available at each Gram Panchyat.

(iii) The time limit for roll out of 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services for which spectrum was auctioned in 2010, is up to 2015.