GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.682
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2019
INTERNET SERVICES AND NET NEUTRALITY

†682.   SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the percentage coverage of internet services in the country at present;

(b)   the effect of net neutrality in increasing the internet coverage in the country along with the details thereof;

(c)   the targets of the Government to increase the said percentage;

(d)   whether any initiative has been taken in this regard; and

(e)   if so, the details of the schemes prepared for the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan; State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a)   As per "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators" report dated 8th January, 2019 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the period July-September, 2018, there are 42.87 internet subscribers per 100 population in the Country.

(b)   As such, net neutrality is not known to have any direct bearing on the internet coverage in the Country.

(c)   National Digital Communications Policy-2018 , inter-alia, aims at provisioning of broadband for all by 2022.

(d) & (e)   Government has allocated 965 MHz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum, which is, inter-alia, resulting into coverage and penetration of internet services in the Country.

For attaining the vision of Digital India and expanding the internet / broadband services in rural areas, BharatNet (one of the biggest rural telecom projects of the world) is being implemented in a phased manner for providing Broadband infrastructure to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country including Rajasthan.

As on 27.01.2019, a total of 1,23,489 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by laying 3,10,097 km underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and 1,16,876 GPs have been made Service Ready. The project is under implementation in remaining GPs. State-wise break-up of service ready Gram Panchayats under BharatNet project is as given at Annexure.

In Rajasthan, as on 27.01.2019, by laying 28,027 km Optical Fibre Cable; a total of 8,575 GPs have been connected by OFC, of which 8,466 GPs are Service Ready.

Further, as part of this flagship project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is being provided at all the GPs in the country. Every GP is being provided with, on an average, 5 Access Points (APs), i.e. 2 APs at Public places & 3 APs at Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post office, police station, etc.

State-wise Status of BharatNet Project as on 27.01.2019

Sr. No	State/Union Territory	Service Ready Gram Panchayats (including Block Head Quarters)
1	Andhra Pradesh	12730
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3	Assam	1601
4	Andaman & Nicobar	0
5	Bihar	5869
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	4058
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	17
10	Gujarat	5162
11	Haryana	6186
12	Himachal Pradesh	226
13	Jammu & Kashmir	264
14	Jharkhand	2345
15	Karnataka	6111
16	Kerala	1129
17	Lakshadweep	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	12693
19	Maharashtra	15126
20	Manipur	265
21	Meghalaya	122
22	Mizoram	30
23	Nagaland	88
24	Odisha	3501
25	Puducherry	101
26	Punjab	7936
27	Rajasthan	8466
28	Sikkim	14
29	Tamil Nadu	0
30	Telangana	2047
31	Tripura	527
32	Uttar Pradesh	28011
33	Uttarakhand	1508
34	West Bengal	2123
	Total	116876

****