

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4019
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH JULY, 2019**

BROADBAND PENETRATION

4019. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the broadband penetration in urban and rural areas of the country separately, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the broadband penetration in rural areas is quite less as compared to urban areas and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to provide universal broadband coverage with 50 Mbps speed to every citizen and 1 Gbps by 2022; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) The data in the Department is maintained License Service Area (LSA) wise. At present there are 22 LSAs in the country. LSA wise Broadband connections in urban and rural areas in India as on 31st March 2019 is given in **Annexure**.

(b) As on 31st March 2019, the number of Broadband connections in the country are 563.31 million of which 373.28 million (66.27%) are in urban areas and 190.03 million (33.73 %) are in rural areas. Broadband connections in rural areas have registered a growth of 78.39% during 2018-19.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir, the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to provide, inter alia, universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen. The policy also aims to provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022. For accomplishing these objectives by 2022, the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 envisages three Missions which will cover rural areas as well:

- (i) Connect India for Creating Robust Digital Communications Infrastructure
- (ii) Propel India for enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and IPR generation
- (iii) Secure India for Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications

With the aim of boosting broadband infrastructure in the rural areas and reducing the digital divide, the Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing Broadband connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 04-07- 2019, a total of 1,31,392 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been covered by laying 3,45,779 kms of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and in 1,20,562 of these GPs equipment has also been installed.

For ensuring last mile connectivity through the BharatNet project, the Government is setting up 25000 Wi-Fi hotspots at BSNL rural exchanges and 7,000 hotspots (e- chaupal) at Common Service Centre.

The Government has also planned to significantly ramp up broadband infrastructure in remote and rural areas including the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States, the North East region and the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4019 to be answered on 17th July, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Ms. Ramya Haridas regarding Broadband Penetration

Service area wise broadband connections as on 31st March, 2019

Sr.No.	License Service Area (LSA)	Broadband connections (in million)	
		Rural Areas	Urban Areas
1	Andhra Pradesh	17.32	26.94
2	Assam	4.94	5.11
3	Bihar	18.56	14.57
4	Delhi	0.49	32.60
5	Gujarat	9.89	26.95
6	Haryana	4.88	8.58
7	Himachal Pradesh	2.90	1.73
8	Jammu & Kashmir	2.17	3.74
9	Karnataka	10.11	26.38
10	Kerala	8.98	13.44
11	Kolkata	1.37	12.63
12	Madhya Pradesh	12.27	23.11
13	Maharashtra	17.03	30.19
14	Mumbai	1.11	23.02
15	North East	2.42	3.51
16	Orissa	8.00	5.60
17	Punjab	6.31	15.35
18	Rajasthan	13.18	18.61
19	Tamil Nadu	9.75	31.20
20	UP (East)	17.90	19.75
21	UP (West)	9.51	18.21
22	West Bengal	10.95	12.07
	Total	190.03	373.28

Source: TRAI
