

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of 3G cities
13.	Odisha	69
14.	West Bengal	90
15.	North East-I	25
16.	North East-II	33
17.	Assam	149
18.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	05
19.	Chennai	17
20.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	323
21.	Kerala	340
22.	Karnataka	81
23.	Tamil Nadu	71
24.	Chhattisgarh	45
25.	Maharashtra	291
26.	Gujarat	120
MTNL		
1.	Delhi	01
2.	Mumbai	01
TOTAL 3G CITIES		2321

Note: North east-I includes, Meghalaya Tripura and Mizoram.

North east-II includes Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Non-functional mobile towers

3289. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of a number of mobile towers lying unused due to their being non-functional; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have, in general, reported that no mobile towers are lying unused due to their being non-functional. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that 1277 towers are not operational because of non-availability of Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTS) and 61 towers are not operational because of various reasons such as court cases, link infeasibility, media and power constraints, theft of equipments etc.

Internet penetration in the country

3290. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the internet user base in the country as on 30 June, 2014;
- (b) whether Government is aware that internet penetration and growth in the country lags behind Asian peers; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve internet penetration and make India one of the world's largest internet user bases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, as per the reports received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the number of Internet subscribers in the country is 251.59 million, as on 31st March, 2014.

(b) The statistics on 'percentage of individuals using the internet' in respect of some Asian countries for the year 2013, as available on the website of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, is given in Statement (*See below*).

Details of the statistics relating to 'percentage of individuals using the internet' available on ITU website for various countries is available at the ITU Website:- <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>.

(c) New Telecom Policy 2012 envisages providing affordable and reliable broadband on demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.

Further, Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) scheme. NOFN, being funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), is planned to