

States and villages with broadband facility

†2314. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States and villages, which have been provided with broadband facility till March, 2016;

(b) whether the States and specific areas have been selected wherein broadband facility would be provided;

(c) if so, the details of those States and areas which would be given priority in order to provide broadband facility;

(d) whether priority would be given to provide broadband facility to rural, hilly, backward and new States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Sir, Access Service Providers as well as Internet Service Providers are permitted to provide broadband services in the country. Government is not maintaining the record about the states and villages covered with broadband facility by telecom operators, as they are free to provide broadband service in the entire service area based on their techno commercial considerations. However, Telecom Service Area wise rural subscriber base of broadband, as per information furnished by Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as on 31st December, 2015 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The subscriber base for the month of March 2016 is being compiled by TRAI.

The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet project is planned to establish network infrastructure to connect all the Gram Panchayats (2.5 lakh) in the country by laying incremental fibre to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks or through radio/satellite for providing broadband connectivity. It is being implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which was established on 25.02.2012 with an objective to create, operate, maintain and manage National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) infrastructure. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. As on 07.05.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid in 1, 12,883 Kms and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

50,465 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected with OFC. Out of these, 6,849 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity. State-wise status of NOFN/BharatNet project as on 07.05.2016 is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Details of Telecom Service Area wise Rural Broadband
Subscriber-base as on 31st December 2015*

Telecom Service Area	No. of subscribers in Millions
Andhra Pradesh	3.33
Assam	0.76
Bihar	1.79
Delhi	0.45
Gujarat	1.81
Haryana	0.92
Himachal Pradesh	0.70
Jammu and Kashmir	0.59
Karnataka	1.96
Kerala	3.11
Kolkata	0.28
Madhya Pradesh	0.89
Maharashtra	2.76
Mumbai	0.12
North East	0.53
Odisha	0.61
Punjab	1.03
Rajasthan	1.75
Tamil Nadu	3.10
UP (East)	1.46
UP (West)	1.11
West Bengal	2.04
TOTAL	31.08

Statement-II*Details of State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 07.05.2016*

Sl.No.	States/ UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	No. of GPs lit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	624	184	167	91	0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	283	215	97	28	0
3.	Punjab	6128	5139	4583	3067	0
4.	Haryana	6090	5393	4958	4950	160
5.	Rajasthan	6967	13362	12235	3782	308
6.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
7.	Uttarakhand	1767	1568	1151	711	183
8.	UP (West)	8040	10228	5955	2721	131
9.	UP (East)	14474	18232	13128	5910	71
10.	Bihar	5202	7575	6564	2436	215
11.	West Bengal	2713	2266	2092	734	0
12.	Assam	1013	1955	1763	682	128
13.	Jharkhand	1388	2831	2535	991	136
14.	Odisha	3388	4950	3856	1670	104
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	0	0	0	0
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	453	100	22	0
17.	Nagaland	743	1725	744	163	0
18.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	0
19.	Meghalaya	638	1052	253	76	0
20.	Tripura	1021	1470	1212	536	79
21.	Mizoram	163	385	25	0	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	18338	15489	5256	150
23.	Chhattisgarh	2110	5035	4652	1574	526

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Gujarat	5735	6509	4770	2234	116
25.	Maharashtra	12055	14746	11641	4940	224
26.	Karnataka	5599	10235	10371	5057	2970
27.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	19	0	0
28.	Telangana	2097	4073	3529	1571	106
29.	Kerala	977	746	810	1129	1129
30.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	101
31.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0
32.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL		100200	140749	112883	50465	6849

* All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

Common service centres under Digital India Programme

†2315. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is planning to expand Common Service Centres in villages to Gram Panchayats under Digital India Programme;

(b) the total number of Gram Panchayats of Maharashtra linked under this scheme, district-wise details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to link all Gram Panchayat of the country, including Maharashtra to this service, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total number of services available in these centres, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has approved "CSC 2.0: A Way Forward" Project under Digital India Programme to expand Common Services Centres (CSCs) in all Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country. It aims to establish Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based self sustaining network with 2.5 Lakhs of CSCs at GP level. At least one CSC in every Gram Panchayat are being setup to deliver various citizen centric services through these Centres. This would also include strengthening and integrating the existing one lakh CSCs already operational.

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