

1	2	3	4
13. Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)		41416	2865
14. Mumbai		16480	291
15. North-East		8157	389
16. Odisha		17880	1080
17. Punjab		20170	1426
18. Rajasthan		30233	1939
19. Tamil Nadu (including Puducherry)		43091	2324
20. Uttar Pradesh (East)		33760	2103
21. Uttar Pradesh (West) (including Uttarakhand)		29091	1377
22. West Bengal (excluding Kolkata including Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands)		22392	1375
TOTAL		556383	33438

Meeting requirement of internet consumers

2857. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has anticipated likely increase in internet users in the country because of fast adoption of digital technology;

(b) if so, the estimated volume of internet users in the country till March, 2018 and the increase anticipated during the next twelve months; and

(c) the preparatory measures Government has taken to deal with additional demand of high speed internet facility to new consumers without causing inconvenience to existing consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) Due to fast adoption of digital technology, it is anticipated that number of internet users will increase in the country.

As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 493.96 million internet subscribers as on 31st March, 2018 in the country. The number of internet subscribers in the country has risen to 636.73 million on 31st March, 2019.

Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October,

2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country. This will enable the telecom service providers to roll-out 3G and 4G services which will facilitate proliferation of high speed internet facility.

Further, for provision of broadband facility in rural areas, BharatNet project is also being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country.

In addition, the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 aims to accomplish, *inter alia*, the following goals:—

- (i) Provide Universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.
- (ii) Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- (iii) Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions.
- (iv) Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of households.
- (v) Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022.

To accomplish these goals, various strategies have been worked out in NDCP 2018.

Loss due to subscribers opting for private telephones

2858. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephone subscribers opted for another private telephone in their residences;

(b) if so, the number of such subscribers who so opted during the last two years; and

(c) the details of revenue loss due to this?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Data regarding the subscribers opting for multiple private telephones in their residences is not maintained in the department.

However, as per the data on mobile number portability available with the department, a total of 1,74,28,634 subscribers have been ported out of PSUs network (BSNL and MTNL put together) while 1,93,59,938 subscribers have been ported in the network till May, 2019. Therefore the PSUs have gained 19,31,304 subscribers from private networks during the period.