

Internet Connections

1988. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of internet connections in the country as on date and the State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed by Government to improve the penetration and the State-wise targets to be achieved by 2005?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Details of Estimated statewise internet connections at present are given in the Statement, (*see below*)

(b) Several steps have been taken by the Government to improve internet access in India. These are:

1. National Internet Backbone (NIB)—Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. (BSNL) plans to establish a National Internet Backbone for carriage of internet traffic. It aims at providing easy interconnect point to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) besides establishing points of presence for DTS as an Internet Service Provider. It is proposed to set up at least one internet node in every Secondary Switching Area.
2. A 20% concession is presently being offered by BSNL on the annual leased line rentals for leased lines taken for internet access.
3. Half of the telephone connections required by licensed ISPs for providing Internet Services may be released *on out-of-turn* basis in Non-OYT General category. BSNL would provide Internet Dial-up ports to the extent of 1/12th of their Dial-up subscriber base, on demand by ISPs.
4. Access to the nearest Internet node *on local call* basis has been made available in all the District Headquarters of the country.
5. Store and forward services over the internet (Viz. Voice, Data, Video etc.) have been permitted subject to no dialing out at the destination and through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) (ISDN) lines/EIR2 links and information being sent

from one internet node to another internet node without switching to PSTN/ISDN.

6. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways after obtaining security clearance. As regards use of satellite medium for providing international bandwidth for internet, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to obtain bandwidth from satellites, which are coordinated over India.
7. The Government has permitted the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to establish submarine cable landing stations for International gateways for internet, after obtaining necessary clearances.
8. BSNL has planned to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March, 2001.

Presently, the internet penetration is doubling in six months and it is estimated that the same rate will be maintained till 2005.

Statement

Statewise list of ISP subscribers as on 30.9.2000

SI. No.	State/UT	No. of Subscribers
1.	Maharashtra	619,524
2.	Delhi	319,616
3.	Tamilnadu	291,032
4.	Karnataka	193,876
5.	West Bengal	160,054
6.	Gujarat	113,633
7.	Andhra Pradesh	91,103
8.	Kerala	49,582
9.	Rajasthan	35,260
10.	Punjab	33,967
11.	Madhya Pradesh	32,186
12.	Chandigarh	26,764
13.	Uttar Pradesh	25,881

1	2	3
1	Goa	9,577
1	Jharkhand	9,281
1	Orissa	6,458
1	Pondicherry	4,593
1	Bihar	4,187
1	Assam	4,497
2	Haryana	3,061
2	Uttaranchal	3,012
2	Jammu & Kashmir	2,784
2	Meghalaya	1,505
2	Himachal Pradesh	1,134
2	Chhattisgarh	995
2	Manipur	582
2	Sikkim	539
2	Mizoram	383
2	Tripura	311
3	Nagaland	260
3	Andaman & Nicobar	240
3	Arunachal Pradesh	180
TOTAL:		2,045,509

Progress of I.T. in Uttaranchal

† 1989. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are great possibilities for the progress of Information Technology in newly created Uttaranchal State due to having the suitable environment, radiation free climate and availability of plentiful qualified manpower there;

(b) whether Government are formulating any proposal in this regard for hilly States;

(c) if so, whether the Uttaranchal State has also been included in that proposal;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.