

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST AUGUST, 2024**

INTERNET PENETRATION IN THE COUNTRY

1137 DR. KANIMOSHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of internet penetration in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of internet penetration in the rural areas, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether lack of access to internet has hampered digital payments in many areas and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in the last five years to improve the quality of digital access in rural India?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) As per information furnished by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), State/UT-wise total internet subscribers (in million) and Internet subscribers per 100 population (in percentage) in Urban / Rural areas in the country as on March 2024 is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

(c) Provisioning of better infrastructure by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) coupled with deployment of latest technology and expansion of network, competitive tariff plans offered by TSPs and availability of cheaper mobile handsets have played a significant role in proliferation of digital payments. The total digital payment transactions volume increased from 4,572 crores in FY 2019-20 to 18,737 crores in FY 2023-24 at a CAGR of 42 per cent.

(d) Government has taken multiple steps to improve the quality of digital access in rural India which include:

- i. BharatNet project is being implemented, using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As of 30.06.2024; 2,13,398 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country. Further, on 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program for extending the scope of BharatNet beyond Gram Panchayats (GPs) to all inhabited villages.
- ii. Various projects including Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands and Mobile connectivity projects are implemented under USOF for connectivity of Rural and Remote areas of the country including Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) area, Border Areas and other unconnected/ underserved areas.

- iii. The project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr. for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas of the country is under implementation.
- iv. Laying of submarine optical fiber cable in Aug-2020 between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing high speed internet/data connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Laying of Submarine OFC connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (1869 km).
- v. Government of India has launched a Scheme for the year 2022-23 named as “Scheme for Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment 2022-23”. A total amount of Rs 3000 crores was earmarked to states for capital projects on Optical fiber Cable and approval has been given for projects amounting Rs 2716 crores in respect of 24 states.
- vi. Issuance of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016 and amendment rules from time to time to implement uniform RoW policies to ease the laying of optical fibers and installation of telecom towers, ensuring faster deployment of telecom infrastructure.
- vii. Conducting Operator Assisted Drive Tests by TRAI, regular audits by Field Units of Department to monitor network performance and identify areas requiring improvement.

Annexure-I**State/UT-wise internet penetration (Internet Subscribers per 100 population) in urban/rural areas of the country as on March 2024**

S.N.	State(s)	Total Subscribers (In million)			Tele-density (%)		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	17.89	17.72	35.61	53.34	89.42	66.74
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.53	0.37	0.89	45.02	89.67	56.59
3	Assam	12.75	7.02	19.77	41.93	123.98	54.80
4	Bihar	37.03	17.17	54.21	32.82	107.87	42.10
5	Chattisgarh	8.39	8.84	17.23	37.84	105.37	56.39
6	Goa	0.83	1.59	2.41	226.62	130.21	152.48
7	Gujarat	18.56	37.02	55.58	50.50	103.74	76.73
8	Haryana	9.96	19.71	29.67	56.83	150.77	96.97
9	Himachal Pradesh	4.03	2.58	6.60	59.83	331.77	87.96
10	Jharkhand	10.98	8.64	19.62	37.26	81.94	49.04
11	Karnataka	20.79	37.09	57.88	55.40	121.13	84.93
12	Kerala	15.88	17.81	33.68	196.98	63.89	93.74
13	Madhya Pradesh	20.17	28.50	48.67	32.44	111.65	55.50
14	Maharashtra	33.76	75.99	109.75	51.77	122.13	86.12
15	Manipur	0.95	1.30	2.25	43.29	122.55	69.21
16	Meghalaya	1.32	0.75	2.07	49.30	107.22	61.28
17	Mizoram	0.53	0.71	1.24	95.45	102.67	99.44
18	Nagaland	0.98	0.68	1.66	82.57	63.83	73.69
19	Odisha	16.15	8.40	24.55	44.94	99.03	55.26
20	Punjab	9.81	17.66	27.47	54.87	135.22	88.79
21	Rajasthan	25.75	26.73	52.48	42.89	121.83	64.02
22	Sikkim	0.31	0.29	0.60	90.81	81.02	85.79
23	Tamil Nadu	17.23	44.00	61.23	48.74	105.35	79.41
24	Telangana	13.10	22.49	35.59	66.68	120.65	92.96
25	Tripura	1.06	1.12	2.18	42.51	66.19	52.08
26	Uttar Pradesh	63.77	65.76	129.53	35.30	114.13	54.36
27	Uttarakhand	4.90	4.95	9.84	65.44	115.52	83.67
28	West Bengal	25.15	38.04	63.18	40.23	102.54	63.44
Union Territories							
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.20	0.21	0.41	89.60	117.45	102.02
2	Chandigarh	0.04	1.29	1.32	-	-	106.40
3	Dadar & Nagar Haweli (incl. Daman & Diu)	0.29	0.55	0.84	120.04	48.69	61.25
4	Delhi	0.29	34.89	35.18	-	-	161.48
5	Jammu & Kashmir	4.33	5.21	9.55	45.67	123.41	69.63
6	Ladakh	0.24	0.08	0.32	118.37	84.10	107.46
7	Lakshadweep	0.06	0.00	0.06	-	-	85.68
8	Puducherry	0.36	0.89	1.25	71.59	75.11	74.07
Total		398.35	556.05	954.40	44.16	111.75	68.19
