

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 203  
FOR ANSWER ON 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**FREE INTERNET FACILITY**

**†\*203.       SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:  
              SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of people in the country are not being able to use free internet facility and are unable to get online facility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide free internet facility to those people who have no access to internet facility; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which free internet facility is likely to be provided in various parts of the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (d)       A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 203 FOR 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2022 REGARDING “FREE INTERNET FACILITY”**

(a) to (d) As per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators”, report released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 23rd November, 2022 there were total 836.86 million internet subscribers in the country as on 30th June, 2022 which is 60.73 Internet Subscribers per 100 population.

Licensees with Internet Service Provider (ISP) License / Authorization and Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) registered under the Pradhan Mantri WiFi Access Network Interface (PM WANI) framework, have been permitted to provide Internet Service as per the License conditions / PM WANI framework respectively based on their techno commercial considerations. Presently there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry for providing free internet facility.

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