

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
PROMOTION OF INTERNET
ALE NARENDRA;JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per latest report of the International Labour Organisation, the use of internet in India is not taking place at the desired level;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of internet and other computer related facilities in the country, especially in rural and remote hilly areas during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the percentage of the progress made in India in this regard vis-a-vis developed countries and our ranking amongst developing countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): In the recent report of International Labour Organisation entitled 'Life at Work in the Information Economy' a concern has been expressed about the low level of internet usage in non-industrialised countries. India, with a subscriber base of 29.69 lakhs as of March 31, 2001 plans for a rapid growth of internet use in a manner that brings its benefit to all.

(c): Announcement of Internet Service Provider (ISP) Policy in 1998, New Telecom Policy in 1999, enactment of Information Technology Bill in 2000 as well as allowing ISPs to set up international internet gateways have provided boost to internet usage. Steps taken by the Government are listed at Annexure.

(d): The Internet penetration in India has shown a constant growth from 0.02 million in August, 1995 to 2.96 million as of 31st March, 2001. The estimated number of Internet users is three times the number of subscribers. India is ranked very high amongst the developing countries in terms of Internet penetration.

Growth rate of Internet users in India is one of the highest in the world.