

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:138

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007

EXPANSION OF BROADBAND SERVICE

Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion of broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed plan to cover all Gram Panchayats and higher secondary schools and public health centres;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred;
- (d) the manner in which broadband users will be benefited by such expansion;
- (e) the resources from where the Government proposes to manage funds for such an expansion plan;
- (f) whether any other plan for the development of this sector is likely to be introduced; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.138 FOR REPLY ON 7TH MARCH 2007 REGARDING EXPANSION OF BROADBAND SERVICE

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) The year 2007 has been christened as the "Year of Broadband" with the target of reaching 9 million broadband connections by 2007. It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centers progressively by the year 2008. The plan also envisages provision of 20 million connections by the year 2010.

Various service providers will provide the required services in urban areas on commercial basis. It is envisaged that Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund will provide the necessary viability gap funding for speedy rural Broadband Access rollout.

Broadband service will provide the platform for various e-governance projects. Service providers will provide various value added services to suit the requirements of consumers.