

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3101
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
COMPUTER AND INTERNET FACILITY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

- (a) the names of the States and the number of villages of the country where the Union Government has provided computer and internet facility as on June 30, 2004;
- (b) the names of the States and the number of villages of the country where this facility has not been provided so far;
- (c) the time by when this facility would be made available in such States/Villages; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), a public sector under the Department of Telecommunications, is setting up Internet Dhabas with a set of computers in each of the rural and urban Block Head Quarters (BHQ) through franchisees in the country. So far, 4062 Internet Dhabas have been set up covering 3984 BHQs out of a total of 6308 BHQs. Statewise details of Internet Dhabas in various BHQs are furnished in the Annexure-I.

Under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) 4251 schools had been covered, and provided with computers. A State-wise list of schools covered under the CLASS scheme is at Annexure-II.

The Department of Secondary and Higher Education of the MHRD has launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) in 2001-2002 to promote computer literacy in schools in the country. Under the scheme funds have been provided to the States/UTs for covering 3112 schools as per list Annexure-III.

In addition, the Department of Information technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes, as follows:-

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up a country wide network which currently extends to 587 Districts out of 601 Districts in the country. The district informatics centres created at these Districts are equipped with computers and Internet connectivity.

- 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) in 487 BHQs in eight North East States have been set up with a set of computers and Internet connection through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs). 60 CICs have also been set up in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) out of 139 BHQs.

- NIC in collaboration with Maharashtra State Government have provided computers and Internet facility at 70 Villages under Warana project.

- Four Rural Samadhan Centres have been set up in 4 locations in one village each in Andhra

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & Madhya Pradesh to provide selected e-Governance service.

- Under Vidya Vahini pilot project, 140 Government and Government aided schools in 7 Districts across the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been provided with Computers and Internet connectivity with VSATs to offer learning material in a distant education mode.

(b),(c) and (d): A total of remaining 2324 BHQs are to be covered by BSNL and 14 remaining Districts and 79 CICs in the remaining BHQs of J&K State are to be covered by NIC as per the individual program drawn out by these organisations and readiness of the concerned States.