

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005  
UTILISATION OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN VILLAGES  
Yadav Shri Parasnath

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is considering to make commercial use of the information available in villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of States likely to be included in the first phase and the number of projects likely to be implemented; and
- (d) the nature of benefits likely to be gained by the villagers from these projects?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ ( SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR )

(a) to (d):- The Govt. is launching an initiative for the creation of Rural Business Hubs to draw upon local resource endowments and the felt needs of the people to give a fillip to village enterprises that add value to existing economic activities in rural areas.

Under a joint initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Confederation of Indian Industry(CII), Uttaranchal, Kerala, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have been initially selected as focus states for the purpose of facilitating the establishment of such Rural Business Hubs. Representatives from the Ministry/CII have been assigned the responsibility of taking up the facilitation process in the states concerned for Rural Business Hubs to be established in association with Panchayati Raj Institutions. Local CII offices in the states concerned would be actively involved in the facilitation at the State level. Models such as the Chinese Town and Village Enterprises and the Thailand model of One Tambon One Product(OTOP) would be used as initial examples for developing State specific models.