

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3527
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2005
SETTING UP OF VILLAGE RESOURCE CENTRES
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up of village resource centre to provide better service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which these are likely to be set up;
- (d) whether the locations of the proposed centres have been identified; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e) : In its first report to the Union Agriculture Minister submitted on the 29th December, 2004, the National Commission on Farmers, has made several recommendations, including setting up Rural/Village Knowledge Centres to harness Information Communication Technology and other tools of communication for village and rural development. In the Seventh Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in Jaipur from 17 – 19 December, 2004, vide para-8 of the conclusions, it was resolved that the Community Service Centres being rolled out by the Ministry of Information Technology at the Centre may be located in the Panchayat offices so that Panchayat services can also be delivered through the Common Service Centres. The number and location of the Centres, the extent to which these Centres will be helpful to the village Panchayats and the financing implication of establishing them will be known only after the Commission's recommendations have been processed and passed by Government.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also preparing a mission mode Project for e- Governance at the Gram Panchayat level under the National e- Governance Plan. It is envisaged that this will enable all Panchayats in the country to progressively obtain the benefits of Information Technology in implementing e-Governance solutions with reference to identified services delivered at the Panchayat level. This is a new initiative. A few Panchayats in the States have been implementing pilots for e-Governance at the Panchayat level under initiatives of the States concerned. However, it is under the Central Plan that common standards and benchmarks will be developed so as to ensure the integrated application of Information Technology to further good governance at the Panchayat level.