GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2098 ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007 FUND FOR E GOVERNANCE

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

- (a) whether the Government has finalized any plan to bring e-governance to the grass-root level as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated December 23, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose;
- (c) the number of services that have been rendered under e-governance;
- (d) the time by when the rural areas in the country are likely to have connectivity of this facility;
- (e) the benefits are likely to be accrued to rural people from the scheme;
- (f) whether the Government has set up a road map for total e-governance; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The report in the Rashtriya Sahara relates to the Common Service Centre Scheme of the Government. The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing

100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private Services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership. The full details of the Scheme are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in . The total outlay of the Scheme is Rs 5742 crores , including the cost of establishment of the CSCs and their operation for four years thereafter. The Government support in the form of viability gap funding is estimated to be Rs 1649 crores, with the balance coming from private sector investments.

- (c): The services to be delivered under the CSC Scheme are primarily to be delivered by State Governments. Various States are at various levels of e-enablement of their backends for delivery of e governance services. These services would be e enabled gradually by the State Governments
- (d): The CSC Scheme is to be implemented by the States Governments. All attempts are being made by the Government of India to expedite the implementation of the Scheme. The government has also appointed a National Level Service Agency to assist it as well as the State Governments in developing , implementing and managing the Scheme. However, since the Scheme is to be implemented by the State Governments, the time by which these centers would actually come up would depend on the initiatives of the State governments concerned.
- (e) The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate delivery of e enabled government services at the doorstep of the citizen. Further, since these centers would also be providing private services, a large number of private services in the area of agriculture, banking insurance, entertainment etc. would also be e-enabled at the village level.
- (f) and (g): The Government has approved the National e Governance Plan comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 components. These MMPs are to be implemented by a designated Nodal Ministry/Department. The designated Nodal Ministry / Department is to define the scope of its project as well as the timelines for its implementation, at the time the Ministry/Department seeks formal financial approval for the MMP from the competent authority.