

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4353
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
EXPANSION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

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- (a) whether any measures are being taken by the Government for expansion of Information Technology (IT) sector in the local languages in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps are being taken by the public sector telecom companies and the private sector telecom companies for expansion of Information Technology in rural areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): Department of Information Technology has initiated 'Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) Programme for development of language software in the country. Under this programme CDs containing software tools for all the 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages have been developed and released in the public domain. Any rural or urban user can make a written request to this department or C-DAC by E- mail or letter requesting any of these software and desired software CD is sent by post to the user. These software and tools are also freely-downloadable from the website <http://www.ildc.gov.in>.

(c) to (e): Under National e-Governance Plan, the Government has sanctioned the scheme of Common Services Centres (CSCs) under which 1,00,000 Kiosks are being established in rural areas. These kiosks are equipped with computers, Internet connectivity and trained and incentivized manpower. These centers provide public services along with facilities of Internet and e-mail. Internet connectivity for these centres is provided by both public and private sector telecom companies. The scheme is being implemented on Public Private Partnership model with Government of India providing revenue viability gap funding. Till 31st October, 2010 about 85,000 CSCs have been established in the rural areas of the country. State-wise details are enclosed at Annexure.