

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
GYAN KENDRAS IN PANCHAYATS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up 'Gyan Kendras' in Panchayats for extending the benefit of communications and information technology to people living in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated/released and utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the total number of people benefited through said Kendras during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (d): No, Madam. However, Ministry of Panchayati Raj proposes to extend the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) to all sections of the rural population of the country through e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP), the centrally sponsored scheme for e-governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (e-PRIs). The scheme will bring about improved governance and improved service delivery through the Panchayats and enable greater accountability of Panchayati Raj Institutions to the community and other authorities. In this project an expenditure of Rs. 48.66 crore has been made for preparation of Information & Services Need Assessment (ISNA), State Detailed Project Report (DPR), Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) and Software Development.

Under the aforesaid scheme, all Village and Block Panchayats are proposed to be provided with ICT infrastructure, including broadband connectivity. Appropriate software applications will also be deployed so as to enable Panchayats to meet the service needs of various stakeholders such as citizens, States/UTs and the Central Government. Induction of ICT at the Panchayats level on such a large scale will eventually result in building ICT culture at the level of the masses and enable rural public linkage to access the external world of knowledge and markets.