

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1198
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme focusing projects with regard to providing basic facilities and developing connectivity particularly in the rural and backward areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently given approval to many basic facility based projects in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR.ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (e) :With a focus on providing basic facilities and developing connectivity in rural and backward areas of the country, the Government has formulated an important road connectivity scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The Programme seeks to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons through all-weather roads. In respect of Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand), Tribal (Schedule-V) areas and the Desert (as identified in Desert Development Programme) areas, the objective is to connect habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. Recently, the Programme Guidelines have been relaxed to extend the coverage under Programme to habitations having population of 250 persons and above in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts identified by Ministry of Home Affairs. Since the integration of PMGSY with Bharat Nirman with effect from 2005-06 the total length of new roads constructed up to September, 2011 has been 1,31,412 kms which is 90% of the target for the corresponding period. State wise details are at Annex-1. During the same period number of habitations covered with new connectivity is 41,179 which 75% of the target during the same period. State wise details are at Annex-2. In the State of J&K 2243.10 kms connecting 672 habitations was achieved. In some of the north-eastern States the achievements were – Manipur – 1,339 kms and 135 habitations, Meghalaya – 295.36 kms and 40 habitations, Mizoram – 1162 kms and 102 habitations. In Uttarakhand achievement was 3160 kms and 388 habitations. Schemes under Communication & Information Technology Sector Apart from roads in the rural and backward areas, Government has formulated the following programmes under the Communication & Information Technology sector for improving connectivity to the villages:

- i) Rural Telephony component of Bharat Nirman Programme Phase I
- ii) Rural Telephony component of Bharat Nirman Programme Phase II
- iii) Scheme for creation of National Optical Fiber Network for Broadband connectivity of Panchayats
- iv) Common Service Center (CSC)

Under Scheme No.

(i) the total of 62302 revenue villages where there was no telephone connectivity were undertaken to provide village public telephones. Upto August, 2011, 62030 villages have been covered. Under Scheme No.

(ii) out of the total 247864 village panchayats, 138434 village panchayats have been provided with the broadband facility. The Government has approved the Common Service Center (CSC) for providing support for establishing 1.00 lakh CSCs in 6 lakh villages in India. As on December, 2011, 97871 CSCs have been rolled out.