

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2556  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013  
RURAL AND URBAN DIGITAL DIVIDE  
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched any programme to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural poor in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard along with the action taken to make personal computer available to poor at affordable prices?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMILINDDEORA)

(a) and (b): The Government has launched the National e-Governance Plan in 2006 to provide affordable, accessible and transparent services to the citizens in both urban and rural areas. NeGP envisages the creation of basic ICT Infrastructure backbone in the form of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) and State Data Centres (SDCs), service provision through 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) of various Departments and provision of necessary software and standards for enabling e-Services. Front-end delivery systems have been created in the form of Common Services Centres (CSCs). Recent initiatives also include the creation of Mobile Service Delivery Gateway to enable citizens to access e-Services directly through mobile phones,

(c): Spread of Digital Literacy has also been carried-out through e-Learning and Digital Literacy initiatives of the Department. There is no proposal to make personal computer available to people. However, access to e-Services has been enabled through Common Services Centres (CSCs) and Mobile Service Delivery Gateway mentioned above.