GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
E GOVERNANCE IN PANCHAYATS
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of implementation of e-governance in the Panchayats in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to the States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year along with the utilisation thereof;

(d) whether the power shortage in the rural areas is a major hindrance in the proper working of e-governance in panchayats;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome the problem of power shortage in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is promoting e-Governance in Panchayats through implementation of e-Panchayat - a Mission Mode Project (MMP), that addresses all aspects of Panchayats' functioning including Planning, Monitoring, Implementation, Budgeting, Accounting, Social Audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licenses etc. Under e-Panchayat MMP, four Applications namely PRIASoft, PlanPlus,National Panchayat Portal and National Panchayat Directory (renamed Local Government Directory) have been in use by the States for three years now. Six more Applications namely Area Profiler, ServicePlus, Asset Directory, ActionSoft, Social Audit and Meeting Management and Training Management were launched in 2012-13 and trainings are being imparted on these Applications.

(a) and (c) MoPR provided financial assistance for setting up Programme Management Units (PMUs) at the State and District levels wherein Rs. 38.50 crores were released to States/ UTs during 2011-12 and Rs. 1.61 crores were released in 2012-13 to 4 States/UTs based on submitted utilization certificates. So far, utilization certificates of Rs. 17.18 crores have been received. In the 12th Plan period, e-Panchayat MMP has been synergised with the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) scheme of MoPR. All States/UTs have been advised to build their specific requirements for computers, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), printer etc. in their respective RGPSA Annual Plans. During 2013-14, Rs. 39.60 crores approx. have been released for e-enablement under RGPSA.

(d) to (f) The inadequate power supply in rural areas poses a challenge as many Panchayats are not able to load/update data on the web based software Applications under e-Panchayat MMP on regular basis. To overcome this, many Gram Panchayats are entering data in nearby Gram/Block/Zilla Panchayat. In areas where the power supply is erratic or the Panchayat offices are not electrified, the States have been advised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to use Desktops with UPS having 6-8 hours backup, laptops with extra batteries and also consider providing solar photo-voltaic power packs by availing Government of India's subsidy.