GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:449
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
IT PENETRATION IN BACKWARD REGIONS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of IT penetration in backward regions of the country;

(b) whether people in the villages are empowered with IT revolution and if so, the complete details thereof; and

(c) the plans if any, of the Government to speed up the reach of IT to every nook and corner of the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The e-Governance services are being made available to all the citizens in backward areas through Common Services Centres (CSCs). Currently, 1,40,833 CSCs are operational across the entire country. The benefits of the scheme are availability of online services through these centres and savings in time and effort for the people in backward areas in availing these services.

(b): Yes, Sir. The people in villages can avail e-Governance services through Common Services Centres (CSCs). The CSCs are providing various Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services. The G2C services include issue of certificates, land records, registration, employment exchange, Aadhar card printing, PAN card services etc. B2C services include mobile and DTH recharge, music, utility/telephone bills, educational courses, ticket bookings, banking and insurance services etc.

(c): The Government of India is implementing Digital India programme to speed up the reach of IT to every nook and corner of the country. Digital India is an umbrella programme to prepare India for a knowledge based transformation. This programme will pull together many existing schemes. These schemes will be restructured and re-focused and will be implemented in a synchronized manner.

The vision of Digital India is centred on three key areas, viz., (i) Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen (ii) Governance and Services on Demand and (iii) Digital Empowe- rment of Citizens. Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, viz., (i) Broadband Highways (ii) Universal Access to Phones (iii) Public Internet Access Programme (iv) e-Governance − Refo- rming Government through Technology (v) e-Kranti - Elect- ronic Delivery of Services (vi) Information for All (vii) Electronics Manufacturing (viii) IT for Jobs and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes.

Under this programme, the Government of India has planned to provide broadband connectivity to all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats of the country. This will help in speeding up the reach of IT to every part of the country.