

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2392
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
IT IN RURAL AREAS
Devi Smt. Rama

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

- (a) the details of the schemes and programmes launched by the Government to develop the information technology and computer education in rural areas of the country;
- (b) the amount earmarked for this purpose in the current year; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to help villages in various fields?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) The development of the Information Technology (IT) and computer education in rural areas of the country is one of the key areas under the Digital India Programme. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing the Common Services Centres (CSCs) scheme to develop and provide support to the use of information technology in rural areas of the country. The CSCs are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Governments, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen. As on date 1,39,696 CSCs have been made operational in 36 States/UTs.

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India is implementing several schemes and programmes to develop the Information Technology (IT) and computer education in rural areas of the country through various agencies/ divisions.

The Human Resource Division (HRD) Division, DeitY is implementing the following two schemes:

(i) National Digital Literacy Mission for IT Mass Literacy scheme aims to train 10 lakh persons, one in every eligible household in selected blocks in each state/UT over a duration of 18 months. Out of this, 1 lakh candidates are to be trained by industry, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others through their own resources /under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and remaining 9 lakh candidates would be supported by the Government.

(ii) Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) under Digital India Programme aims to make 42.5 lakh persons digitally literate in selected households throughout the country over a period of 4 years. Out of this, 4 lakh candidates are to be trained by industry, NGOs and others through their own resources/under CSR and remaining 38.5 lakh candidates would be supported by the Government. It has also been decided to include Aanganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Authorised Ration Dealers across the Country as trainees under the scheme.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), DeitY is implementing following major IT and computer education related projects in rural areas:

(i) Training in IT Skills to improve the employability of the rural youth belonging to SC/ST and minority communities in 10 states (Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Odisha, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Tamilnadu/ Puducherry and Rajasthan): Total outlay - Rs. 14.40 crores/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 438.5 lakh

(ii) Training in Electronics Equipment Repair & Maintenance (EERM) to improve the employability of the rural youth belonging to SC/ST & minority communities in 9 states (Maharashtra, UP, Bihar, J&K, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Tamilnadu/ Puducherry and Rajasthan) : Total outlay - Rs. 9.72 crores/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 199.96 lakh

(iii) Training Programme in ITES-BPO to improve the employability of the rural youth belonging to SC/ST/Minority & Women Communities in 10 states (Maharashtra, UP, Bihar, J&K, Jharkhand, Odisha, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Tamilnadu/ Puducherry and Rajasthan): Total outlay - Rs. 11.70 crores/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 165.25 lakh

(iv) Basic Computer Course (BCC) training of 25,000 Elected Representatives (ERs) and Panchayati Raj functionaries: Total outlay: Rs. 4.99 crores/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 : Nil

(v) Course on Computer Education in rural areas: Total outlay - Rs. 14.10 crore/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 126.21 lakh

(vi) Training and certification of SC candidates in job oriented courses in Information Technology: Total outlay - Rs. 46.32 lakh/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Nil

(vii) Computer Hardware Maintenance (CHM)-O level for SC candidates towards entrepreneurship development for Cooch Behar, West Bengal: Total outlay - Rs. 55.44 lakh/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 27.72 lakh

(viii) IT skills and e-inclusion through low cost access devices based awareness programme for STs: Total outlay - Rs. 1.32 crores/ Amount released in FY 2014-15 - Rs. 60.79 lakh

Training in Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT) of the rural youth is expected to help in reducing digital divide and create information rich societies as the trained manpower is expected to be able to access the government and quasi-government resources and services, access the market information, make use of new credit and financial services, market products through the internet etc. The skill empowerment through these projects is also leading to enhanced employment and financial opportunities for them.

Under IT for Masses Programme, the following projects are being implemented by DeitY:

(i) e-Inclusion: IT training for rural SC, ST and Women beneficiaries - Training to 15,000 each of SC, ST and Women beneficiaries in NIELIT's Basic Computer Course (BCC)- The project has been initiated in 2013-14 at cost of DeitY's share of Rs. 146.70 lakh each for SC, ST and Women beneficiaries.

(ii) IT Mass Literacy Programme for Women, SC and ST in Kerala - Opportunity to 8.11 lakh computer illiterate Women of Kerala / 1.8 lakh SC/ 0.30 lakh ST from 100 Gram Panchayaths to get benefits from IT literacy training - An amount of Rs. 93.83 lakh has been released (Rs.74.13 lakh for Women's Project, Rs. 16.88 lakh for SC Project, Rs. 2.82 lakh for ST Project) during 2014-15 for three projects under implementation in Kerala.

The following projects are being implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC):

(i) Capacity Building in IT skill for Economically Weaker Women & Self Help Group (SHG) in Purba Medinipur District in West Bengal: Computer Training Infrastructure has been created at Contai, Purba Medinipur. Total 200 Master Trainers have been produced and total 2095 SHGs/Local Youths have been trained on IT Literacy. The computer skill has been developed for self employment/ employment. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 34.04 lakh.

(ii) IT based Computer Aided Design (CAD) Centre for Creative Design & Development by Artisans/Weavers of Tripura, Assam & Arunachal Pradesh: 75 Master Trainers in Handloom/Handicraft are to be well trained in IT. A high end IT infrastructure which can be used for similar training and for supporting local IT activities is being developed. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 74.85 lakh.

(iii) IT based Computer Aided Design (CAD) Centre for Creative Design & Development by Artisans / Weavers of Sikkim, Manipur & Mizoram: 75 Master Trainers in Handloom/ Handicraft are to be well trained in IT. A High End IT Infrastructure which can be used for similar training and for supporting local IT activities is being developed. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 124.20 lakh.

(iv) Implementation of SSM CAL (Computer Aided Learning) Program under Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM) for all districts of West Bengal: 872 District school teachers have been trained. LAB with hardware & software is being created. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 425 lakh.

(v) Economy Activity Training Centre (EATC) at Nadia, West Bengal: 872 District school teachers have been trained. LAB with hardware & software is being created. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs 7 lakh.

(vi) Computer Aided Design for Artisans / Weavers of West Bengal (Bolpur and Purbasthali): LAB Creation with hardware & software. 75 Master Trainers have been trained from Bolpur & Purbasthali. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 14 lakh.

(vii) Development of education content with interactive multimedia based self learning solution in association with State Council for Education Research and Training (SCERT), Govt. of West Bengal: 88 contents have been developed for Class VI (20), VII (37) and VIII (37) students. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs 16 lakh.

(viii) Deployment of Health Care Knowledge System in the North East States for promoting public health awareness & education (Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Meghalaya): Semantic network based health care knowledge system information Kiosks have been set up in all major Medical Colleges & Hospitals, Health Departments, CSCs, Rural Health Centres all across the eight North Eastern states. More than 900 Health workers have been trained on this system as how to prevent diseases to make society healthier in India. The system has been deployed through web also. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 106.72 lakh.

(ix) Centralized e-Auction portal for eight North Eastern states: Farmers all across NE states of India would be able to earn more money on selling their crops (Large Cardamom, Pine Apple etc.) through e-Auction. More number of buyers would be attracted through this online auction. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 74.33 lakh.

(x) IT Oriented Handloom Sector Development Program for Creative Design, Development & Deployment by Artisans/Weavers and

Enhancement of Marketability through web portal for Handloom of Orissa and Jharkhand Cluster CAD Centres will be set up all across Orisha and Jharkhand States Districts. 720 Master Trainers will be produced. Master Trainers will train other Weavers and Artisans. The weavers will be able to sell their products at better price through Portal. This will enhance the productivity and make the design quality better. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs 264.92 lakh.

(xi) Capacity building for the upliftment of 2000 ST Candidates of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, a project funded by DeitY based on the proposal submitted by CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram: The project will benefit the ST Candidates of the UT of Lakshadweep Islands by way of getting employment opportunities in the IT sector. In FY 2014-15, the total fund earmarked for the project is Rs. 89.39 lakh.