

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016

Common Service Centres

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

- (a) whether the entrepreneurs have benefitted from Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken a decision to provide internet connection to CSCs on priority basis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The CSCs are playing as game changers by providing a common platform for socially-inclusive community participation leading to empowerment and development of society. Enabling delivery of a wide range of eServices has enhanced the business of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) by increasing their income and making them sustainable. Keeping in view of the commitment for maximized delivery of various e-Governance services within the reach of the citizen, Government has been striving to integrate more and more services of different service access platforms & portals with the consolidated service delivery framework of CSC called "Digital Seva Platform". This has significantly enhanced the footfalls of the CSCs, thereby helping in strengthening the Government's objective of rural employment through ICT under "Digital India" initiative.

Presently, CSCs are delivering various services such as Banking, Insurance, Aadhaar, Electoral Cards, Educational (NDLM/DISHA etc.) and various other Government to Citizen (G2C) Services such as Land Record/Income/Caste/Birth & Death/Domicile, etc, and also many Business to Consumer (B2C) services such Railway ticketing, Utility bill services such as Electricity Bill Payment etc. These services have benefitted the VLEs to a great extent in terms of their sustainability.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. Government had taken decision to provide internet connection to CSCs on priority basis. These are mentioned below:

â€¢ Efforts were made to connect the CSCs in North East & difficult areas by providing Broadband connectivity to 2500 CSCs using VSAT technology. As on 31st July, 2016, 1959 VSATs have been commissioned at CSCs.

â€¢ Besides, efforts were made to connect the CSCs in other areas using WiMax technology. Around 28,718 CSCs were covered using this technology.

Apart from that, the following steps have been taken to connect the upcoming CSCs:

â€¢ In order to leverage the imminent high-speed connectivity at Panchayat level to provide an integrated electronic delivery of services, an advisory has been issued by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to all States and UTs, requesting to co-locate the CSCs in the Gram Panchayat (GP) Premises or provide suitable space near the GP Bhawans.

â€¢ Efforts are being made by the Government to connect all Gram Panchayats with high speed broadband. In view of this, necessary guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up all the planned 2.5 lakhs of CSCs within Gram Panchayat Offices.

â€¢ Efforts are being made to co-locate the CSCs at GP Buildings where connectivity can be easily availed from the upcoming high speed broadband network.

â€¢ 746 CSCs have been identified for co-location to use this connectivity as on 30th, June, 2016. Out of them, 332 CSCs have been co-located & working at Gram Panchayat using bandwidth from BharatNet terminals in the States. For remaining GPs, efforts are being made to co-locate/re-locate the CSCs with BharatNet connectivity.

â€¢ Presently, the operational CSCs are transacting eServices by using various other means of connectivity also.

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