

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:618
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2017
IT in Rural Areas
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Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: -

- (a) the major efforts taken in the last three years to take information technology to the rural areas of the country;
- (b) the details of funds that have been allocated to achieve this said target;
- (c) the percentage of rural areas covered by IT services;
- (d) the changes that have been brought about in the schemes under the Ministry in the last three years to take internet to the remote areas of the country; and
- (e) the details of rural areas of the country which have been penetrated by internet so far ?

Answer

(a): Following are the major efforts made by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the last three years to take information technology to the rural areas of the country:

(i) Common Services Centres (CSCs): CSCs are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneurs called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and provide eServices to rural citizens. CSCs deliver various Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, Educational services, Skill development services etc. to citizens.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India is establishing CSCs in about 2.5 lakhs of Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country (with at least one CSC in each GP). For this, MeitY approved a project- "CSC 2.0", in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme with an outlay of Rs. 475.11Crores which is to be implemented over a period of four years. M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a CSC Special Purpose Vehicle) was engaged as the implementing agency for the project with active support and participation by the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Nodal Department(s), State Designated Agencies (SDAs), and, the District e-Governance Societies (DeGS).

Till June, 2017, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, among which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, among which, 1,63,226 are at GP level.

Target CSCs at Gram Panchayat (GP) level 2,50,000 (approx.)

Registered Functional

CSCs at Gram Panchayat (GP) level (A) 1,96,922 (at 1,32,514 GPs) 1,63,226 (at 1,22,369 GPs)

CSCs other than GP, including Urban (B) 1,03,852 97,845

Total CSCs including GP (A+B) 3,00,774 2,61,071

The State/UT-wise CSC roll out status is given in Annexure-I.

(ii) National Information Infrastructure (NII):

A pilot on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).

(b): Details of the funds that have been allocated to achieve this said target are indicated below:

CSC 2.0:

Approved outlay = Rs. 475.11 crores, Released till date = Rs. 145 crores

National Information Infrastructure (NII):

Approved outlay = Rs. 45.84 crores, Released till date = Rs. 45.84 crores

(c): Coverage of IT services in rural areas is detailed below:

(i) Through Common Services Centres (CSCs):

Various types of citizen centric eServices can be delivered through national level integrated platform of CSC-Digital Seva once State/UT level service access portals are integrated with Digital Seva portal. Number of services in national CSC portal (Digital Seva) was increased from 32 to 170 during last 3 years. Out of the total target of around 2.5 lakhs of Gram Panchayats (GPs) to be covered

through CSCs under the ongoing CSC 2.0 project within 4 years (by August, 2019) for delivery of citizen centric eServices, more than 1.33 lakhs GPs (more than 53%) have been covered with around 1.97 lakhs of CSCs for delivery of eServices to citizens till June, 2017.

(d) and (e): Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communication.

DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme to establish network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakhs) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. The BharatNet project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by November 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakhs GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. Under third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the said project (phase-I), 2,38,489 KMs of pipeline has been laid in 1,06,276 GPs, 2.20 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,152 GPs and 23,147 GPs have been connected so far till 09-07-2017. The detailed status of BharatNet project is given in Annexure-II.

Apart from that, the CSC Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) launched an initiative called- Wi-Fi Choupal for 5,000 Gram Panchayat (GP), a rural Wi-Fi service initiative in financial year 2016-17 at the behest of Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 cr. Wi-Fi Choupal project has been launched to provide Wi-Fi Internet access in rural India through CSCs. As on date, Wi-Fi Infrastructure has been deployed in 2500 GPs across 9 States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka) and 2 Union Territories (Chandigarh and Puducherry). The activation of the internet service has been done at 650 GP locations.

ANNEXURE – I

STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017

S. No. State No. of Gram Panchayat (GP) No. of CSCs Registered including GP No. of CSCs Registered at GP level No. of GPs covered with Registered CSC Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level

1 2 3 3.1 4 5

1	Andhra Pradesh	12833	5488	3475	3475	5212	3119
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1779	115	54	54	54	44
3	Assam	2196	2735	2246	2196	2213	1559
4	Bihar	8463	22380	17541	8463	19090	11960
5	Chhattisgarh	9734	11929	8410	8410	11175	7940
6	Goa	189	54	37	37	32	30
7	Gujarat	13735	18062	14845	13735	16805	13885
8	Haryana	6155	8724	5834	5834	7900	4923
9	Himachal Pradesh	3243	2624	2269	2269	2552	1952
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4128	2123	1039	1039	1727	900
11	Jharkhand	4423	9799	7445	4423	9014	5295
12	Karnataka	5628	6564	2665	2665	4963	2333
13	Kerala	979	2676	1969	979	2119	1111
14	Madhya Pradesh	23012	19446	13175	13175	16194	11873
15	Maharashtra	27920	31066	19464	19464	25324	17788
16	Manipur	165	646	256	165	554	207
17	Meghalaya	1463	262	193	193	198	74
18	Mizoram	776	376	316	316	316	176
19	Nagaland	1123	232	230	230	220	138
20	Odisha	6234	8651	6832	6234	6545	5599
21	Punjab	12800	6261	4282	4282	5229	3464
22	Rajasthan	9946	30436	15038	9946	29814	14878
23	Sikkim	165	37	31	31	31	23
24	Tamil Nadu	12618	11069	5773	5773	7408	4646
25	Telangana	8787	5564	3180	3180	5043	2855
26	Tripura	1038	521	442	442	366	322
27	Uttar Pradesh	51914	67054	41675	7555	58876	35804
28	Uttarakhand	7555	5594	4441	4441	4339	3853
29	West Bengal	3351	17527	13584	3351	15653	6330
	State Total	242352	298015	196741	132357	258966	163081
	Union Territory						
1	Andaman & Nicobar	69	49	26	26	42	20
2	Chandigarh	17	112	29	17	65	21
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11	31	16	11	21	9
4	Daman and Diu	14	11	2	2	8	1
5	Delhi	0	2361	0	0	1854	0
6	Lakshadweep	10	3	3	2	2	2

7 Puducherry 98 192 105 98 113 92
UT Total 219 2759 181 157 2105 145
GRAND TOTAL 242571 300774 196922 132514 261071 163226

Annexure-II

STATUS OF BHARATNET AS ON 09.07.2017

S.N. Description of Work Status

1. OFC Pipe laid 2,38,489 Kms (1,06,276 GPs)
2. Optical Fibre laid 2,20,139 Kms (100,152 GPs)
3. Tenders Finalized 3324 Blocks / 1,24,412 GPs
4. Work Started* 3223 Blocks / 1,20,570 GPs
5. Current Weekly performance of Optical Fibre laying 662Kms
6. Current Weekly performance of OFC Pipe laying 889 Kms
7. Optical Fibre Cable Delivered on site 2,55,499 Kms
8. GPON Integrated & Tested (Lit) 23,147 GPs

* does not include the data of Andhra Pradesh
State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017

S.No. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I Pipe laid (kms.) Cable laid (in kms) No. of GPs where Pipe laid No. of GPs where Cable laid GPs connected

1	Assam	1533	3799	4158	1420	1348	354
2	Bihar	5754	12199	12940	4967	4742	711
3	Chhattisgarh	4104	10213	7873	3304	3159	1289
4	Haryana	6020	9776	10993	5907	5801	894
5	Jammu & Kashmir	388	427	388	214	200	0
6	Karnataka	6092	11784	12193	6026	6010	4826
7	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35904	31113	12026	11643	3599
9	Maharashtra	15301	26696	25129	12664	11843	1992
10	Punjab	8049	9810	9153	6989	6745	637
11	Rajasthan	8194	21069	20268	7114	7046	1725
12	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48556	44678	25363	23409	2785
13	Uttarakhand	1863	2792	2636	1503	1463	431
14	West Bengal	2637	5175	4876	1822	1791	231
15	Andaman & Nicobar	69	0	0	0	0	0
16	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12
17	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	656	609	220	0
18	Nagaland	994	2614	1475	831	462	0
19	Manipur	904	333	232	154	122	26
20	Mizoram	763	735	438	125	73	0
21	Tripura	1021	1688	1584	834	810	79
22	Meghalaya	1208	1212	525	433	191	0
23	Gujarat	6905	10518	9542	5046	4478	1018
24	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2627	766	520	283	0
26	Telangana	2017	4538	4462	2038	2038	206
27	Odisha	3860	8121	7970	3109	3108	517
28	Jharkhand	2713	5012	4669	1864	1775	529
29	Himachal Pradesh	252	513	481	155	153	56
30	Daman & Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Goa*	-----					

Grand Total 124127 238489 220139 106276 100152 23147

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre