

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:2
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014
DIGITAL INDIA PROJECT
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Government has launched a scheme called "Digital India Project" in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details and the salient feature thereof;
 - (c) whether the said scheme also aims to ensure that all villages avail High Speed Internet Connectivity at affordable rates; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 02 FOR 24-11-2014 REGARDING DIGITAL INDIA PROJECT

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Government of India has launched the "Digital India" programme with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. The programme aims to provide the much needed thrust to certain growth areas, namely broadband highways, access to mobile connectivity, access to public internet, e-Governance, electronic delivery of services and electronic manufacturing.

Strengthening Common Service Centres (CSCs) would be integral to the Digital India concept. Government Process Re-engineering (GPR) under this umbrella programme entails reforming government through technology including using IT, electronic databases, workflow automation etc. Electronic delivery of services through E-Kranti focuses on Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) in e-Governance and includes e-Education, e-Healthcare, technology for farmers, technology for security, technology for financial inclusion. Technology for planning through GIS based decision making for project planning, conceptualization, design & development, as well as technology for cyber security are key components of the programme. Online hosting of information and documents, usage of social media and web based platforms to inform citizens, online messaging to citizens on special occasions/programs through emails and SMSes is envisaged. MyGov.in has already been launched as a platform to exchange ideas/ suggestions with Government.

(c) and (d): Digital India program includes the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) as part of broadband highways for rural areas. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has been incorporated, with an objective to create, operate, maintain and manage the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). This infrastructure is required for providing at least 100 Mbps bandwidth in estimated 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) to be used by service providers on non-discriminatory basis. Under this scheme, all Gram Panchayats of the country will be connected with respective blocks through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). The work has been allocated by BBNL to 3 CPSUs viz. BSNL, Railtel and PGCIL. Approximately, Rs. 2010 crores have been released for the NOFN scheme.