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Title: The Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Communications and Information Technology laid a statement regarding 1st meeting of Prime Minister's Committee on National e- Governance Plan (NEGP) held on 23.11.11.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay the statement regarding the first meeting of Prime Minister's Committee on National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) held on November 23, 2011.

I am happy to inform you that the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was held on 23.11.2011.

Under National e-Governance Plan, initiatives like Income Tax, MCA 21, Passports, Central Excise have started delivering online services to the citizens. It is the endeavour of the Government to expand the number of public services that are available to citizens in electronic mode. Accordingly, the Committee emphasized the urgent need for adoption of e-Governance in all walks of Governance to enhance accountability, transparency and efficiency and to realize the objective of inclusive growth with equity.

The PM's Committee also decided to introduce the Electronic Delivery of Services (EDS) Bill in the winter session of the Parliament to mandate e-Delivery of all Public Services within 5 years of the commencement of the Act in all Ministries of the Central Government.

To give further impetus to e-Governance it has also been decided to constitute an Expert Group to review each Mission Mode Project and suggest measures to address critical issues including process re-engineering, augmentation of project teams where needed, standards, creation of common platforms and integration across projects.

The high growth rate of our economy has resulted in a significant increase in the Government procurements and it is the policy of the Government to ensure the highest degree of transparency and accountability in Public Procurement. Accordingly, it has been decided that e-Procurement will be adopted mandatorily in a phased and time-bound manner. The Department of Expenditure will drive the adoption of e-Procurement by Central Ministries/ Departments, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous/ Statutory bodies and the e-Solutions would be certified by DIT on technology and security.

The Government has also decided to initiate new e-Governance projects for Education, Health, Public Distribution System and Postal Services. This would ensure access to quality education, cost efficient and quality health care and postal services to the common man at an affordable cost. The initiatives for PDS will help bringing in transparency and efficiency and also eliminate corruption.

In order to leverage the rapid growth in penetration of mobile technology and connectivity the PM's Committee on NeGP decided that public services under all e-Governance projects will be delivered through Mobile Devices like Mobile phones and Aakash Tablets also to ensure reach and accessibility of all services to the common man.

Further basic Banking Services i.e. cash withdrawal, cash deposit, balance inquiry and transfer of money from one account to another will be extended to every Panchayat through CSCs and money transfer facility will be extended to every Village by December, 2013 leveraging ICT and Mobile technology. This will ensure that Financial Inclusion becomes a reality.

These initiatives will have a significant impact on improving Governance and reducing corruption and hardships that the citizens have to face in accessing public services and will go a long way in ensuring Inclusive Growth with equity and transparency.