BHARATNET SCHEME

2974. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
(a) whether the last mile connectivity is done by the Common Services Centres (CSCs) in several States in the BharatNet scheme and if so, the details thereof including the number of CSCs established, State/UTwise, along with their functioning;
(b) whether CSC Special Purpose Vehicle has been set up to execute the establishing of optical fibre network in the Panchayats and villages across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether it is a fact that CSCs have to coordinate with BSNL to provide last mile connectivity and if so, the details thereof along with the number of locations connected to internet at Panchayats level, State/UTwise; and
(d) whether there have been reports that CSCs in Bihar have been unsuccessful in providing last mile internet connectivity, with special reference to Saran district, if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor with the revenue generated?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is implementing the BharatNet project for providing the last mile connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. As part of this project, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited -a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV)had been assigned to provide the last mile connectivity, through 1Wi-Fi Access Point and 5 FTTH in about 77,115 GPs. As of now, 85717Wi-Fi Access Points and 126301 FTTH connections have been installed in these GPs. The state-wise details are in **Annexure-I**

(b): CSC-SPV were primarily set up to manage the ecosystem of CSCs for their execution/operations and functioning for extending governance in public services viz Aadhaar Card registration, PAN Card registration, booking for train and air tickets, bank-related information/Financial Inclusion Services, Educational Services, G2C/B2C services, Healthcare services etc, to every citizen. However, CSC-SPV was assigned a pilot project for laying overhead optical fiber from GPs to villages in Bihar only under BharatNet project in October; 2020. Under this project, CSC has connected 30953 villages out of the total target of 32268 villages. In these villages, more than 28,599 Wi-Fi Access Points and 35,084 FTTH connections have been provided in Govt Institution in these villages.

(c): Yes Sir. CSC-SPV has to coordinate with various agencies including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) forstable backhaul and other maintenance issues such as; optical fibre faults, batteries maintenance, air-conditioning, Solar power system, etc at block level.

State/UT wise details of GPs where Wi-Fi Access Points have been installed and FTTH connections provided by CSCSPV is given in **Annexure-I**.

(d): Under the pilot project in Bihar, CSC-SPV has provided more than 28,599 Wi-Fi Access Points and 35,084 FTTH connections to Govt Institution in these villages. Out of these, 1372 Wi-Fi Access Points and 1480 FTTH connections are in Saran District. Progress has been less than the desired pace due to disconnection of Internet Leased Line from many locations by BSNL because of non-payment by CSC-SPV (due to non-receipt of fund to CSC-SPV from Universal Services Obligation Fund under DoT (USOF-DoT). As a result, hardly any revenue is being generated now from these connections.

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Annexure-1

State/UT wise details of Wi-Fi Hotspots installed and FTTH connections provided by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited

S.No	STATE	No of AP Installed	No. of FTTH Connections Provided in Govt. Institutions
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1570	2363
2	ASSAM		913
3	BIHAR	28599	35084
4	CHHATTISGARH	3158	9026
5	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	21	14
6	DAMAN AND DIU	20	13
7	GUJARAT	3948	11764
8	HARYANA	4923	10042
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	89	362
10	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	373	288
11	JHARKHAND	2126	1606
12	KARNATAKA	3047	2782
13	KERALA	319	115
14	MADHYA PRADESH	10190	6634
15	MAHARASHTRA	11898	18927
16	Manipur		8
17	Meghalaya		2
18	ODISHA	2400	5218
19	Puducherry		62
20	PUNJAB	7934	12652
21	TELANGANA	1997	1879
22	TRIPURA	492	1156
23	Uttar Pradesh East		525
24	Uttar Pradesh West		547
25	UTTARAKHAND	898	3072
26	WEST BENGAL	1715	1247
	Grand Total	**85717**	**126301**

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