

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1196
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.02.2022

SCHEME FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1196. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

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

- (a) the salient features of the schemes being implemented by the Government to make Information Technology more accessible in the country, particularly in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to make the Information Technology (IT) accessible to the people residing in rural, hilly and remote areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the State of West Bengal?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. In summary, our mission is to ensure that the digital technologies improve the life of every citizen; expand India's digital economy, create employment and global digital technological capabilities in the country.

Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas namely Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen, Governance and Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens. Digital India has dramatically reduced distance between Government and citizens significantly. Further, Digital India has also helped in delivery of substantial services directly to the beneficiary in a transparent and corruption free manner.

Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government to make Information Technology accessible to the people residing in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country including West Bengal are as follows:

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** The Common Services Centres project aims to set-up at least one CSC at 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country, for delivery of various Government to Citizen (G2C) and other citizen centric e-Services. It is a self-sustainable entrepreneurship model which is run by Village level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). As on December, 2021, the number of functional CSCs (including urban & rural areas) across the

Country is 4,46,789 CSCs, out of which, 3,48,391 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat level.

- **Digital Village:** MeitY has initiated the 'Digital Village Pilot Project' in October, 2018. 700 Gram Panchayats (GPs)/Village with atleast one Gram Panchayat/Village per District per State/UT are being covered under the project. The digital services being offered under the project are Health Services (Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation), Education Service, Financial Services (Financial Inclusion Awareness Programme), Skill Development, Solar panel powered street lights including Government to Citizens Services (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) Services.
- **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** e-District project has been implemented at district and sub-district levels of all States/UTs, benefitting all citizens by delivering various e-Services such as Certificates (Birth, Caste, Death, Income and Local Resident), Pension (Old Age, Disability and Widow), Electoral, Consumer Court, Revenue Court, Land Record and services of various departments such as Commercial Tax, Agriculture, Labour, etc. Total 3,916 e-District services have been launched in 709 districts across 28 States/ 6 UTs.
- **Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan (PMGDISHA):** MeitY is implementing a scheme namely "Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 Crore rural households (one person per household). The scheme is applicable to all rural areas of the country. So far, training has been imparted to around 4.68 crore candidates and out of this, more than 3.48 crore candidates have been certified.
- **BharatNet:** BharatNet is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas. This project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications. BharatNet aims to connect all the 2,50,000 the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages of the country. As on 31.12.2021, a total number of 1,69,244 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure.

Status of key initiatives to make Information Technology accessible to the people living in the state of West Bengal are as follows:

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** 20,064 CSCs are functional, out of them, 17,976 CSCs are functional at GP level.
- **Digital Village:** 22 villages from West Bengal have been covered under the pilot project for Digital Village implementation.
- **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** 154 e-District services have been launched in all 23 districts of West Bengal.
- **Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** Training has been imparted to 15,54,955 candidates and out of this 12,08,463 candidates have been certified.
- **BharatNet:** A total number of 2547 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure.
