

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 724
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.12.2021

SCHEMES FOR EASY ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

724. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the main features of schemes being implemented by Government to make information technology more easily accessible in the country;
- (b) whether Government has made any efforts to make information technology more easily accessible for people living in rural and remote areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including the State of Jharkhand?

ANSWER

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

(a): 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. 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 to citizens in corruption free manner and directly to the beneficiary. In summary, our mission is to ensure that the digital technologies improve the life of every citizen, expand India's digital economy, generate employment and create digital capabilities in the country.

(b): Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government to make Information Technology accessible to the people living in rural and remote areas of the country are as follows:

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** MeitY has initiated a project namely "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme, which envisages setting up of at least one CSC at Gram Panchayat (GP) to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. Common Services Centres are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneur, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and provide eServices to rural

citizens. Over 400 digital services are being offered by these CSCs. As on October, 2021, the number of functional CSCs (including urban & rural areas) across the Country is 4,18,436 CSCs, out of which, 3,25,781 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat level.

- **Digital Village:**MeitY has also 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 are Digital Health Services (Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation), Education Service, Financial Services, 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, Employment Training & Skill Development etc. e-District services have been launched in 709 districts across 28 States/ 6 UTs.
- **Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyaan (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 4.54+ crore candidates and out of this more than 3.37+ 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 01.11.2021, a total number of 1,66,088 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure.

(c):Status of key initiatives to make Information Technology accessible to the people living in the state of Jharkhand are as follows:

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** 15,869 CSCs are functional, out of them, 13,533 CSCs are functional at GP level.
- **Digital Village:** 27 villages from Jharkhand have been covered under the pilot project for Digital Village implementation.
- **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** 30 e-District services have been launched in all 24 districts of Jharkhand.
- **Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** Training has been imparted to 16,71,364 candidates and out of this 12,14,365 candidates have been certified.
- **BharatNet:** A total number of 3223 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure.
