GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *44
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.07.2022

ACCESSIBILE IT SERVICES

*44.   PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
**   DR. HEENA GAVIT:**

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

(a) the salient features of schemes being implemented by the Government to make
     Information Technology (IT) more accessible in the country;

(b) whether the Government has made any effort to make IT accessible to the people
     residing in rural, hilly and remote areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof including that of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and
     Maharashtra;

(d) whether effective steps are being taken/proposed to be taken for decentralisation of the
     IT services in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

(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 directly to the beneficiaries in a transparent and corruption free manner.

(b): 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 state of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are given below.

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** MeitY 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) level to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. Common Services Centres are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneurs, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and provide eServices to rural citizens. Over 400 digital services are being offered by these CSCs. As on 30th June, 2022, the number of functional CSCs (including urban & rural areas) across the Country is 5.31 Lakh CSCs, out of which, 4.20 Lakh CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat level.
- **Digital Village:** MeitY initiated the 'Digital Village Pilot Project" in October, 2018. 700 Gram Panchayats/ Villages 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 Services, Financial Services, Skill Development, Solar panel powered street lights and 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. Presently 4,671 e-services have been launched in 709 districts across India.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** MeitY is implementing a scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 Crore rural households (one person per household). To ensure equitable geographical reach, it has been envisaged that each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country will register an average of 200-300 candidates. So far, a total of around 6.16 crore candidates have been enrolled and 5.25 crore have been trained, out of which 3.89 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
- **BharatNet:** BharatNet is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas. This project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. As on 04.07.2022, a total number of 1,77,550 GPs have been made service ready in the country. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond Gram Panchayats in the country.

(c): Status of implementation of key initiatives in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra is as follows:

Uttar Pradesh:
 (i). Common Services Centers (CSCs): 1,25,153 CSCs are functional. Out of them, 99,450 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
 (ii). Digital Village: 75 Gram Panchayats/ Villages from Uttar Pradesh have been covered under the pilot project for Digital Village.
 (iii). e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP): 258 e-services have been launched in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.
 (iv). Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA): In the state of Uttar Pradesh, training has been imparted to 1,36,82,969 candidates out of which 1,03,26,882 candidates have been certified.
 (v). BharatNet: 38,010 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure under BharatNet project.

Madhya Pradesh
 (i). Common Services Centers (CSCs): 44,487 CSCs are functional. Out of them, 33,735 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
 (ii). Digital Village: 51 Gram Panchayats/ Villages from Madhya Pradesh have been covered under the pilot project for Digital Village.
 (iii). e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP): 313 e-services have been launched in 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
 (iv). Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA): In the state of Madhya Pradesh, training has been imparted to 45,49,136 candidates out of which 33,54,694 candidates have been certified.
 (i) BharatNet: 17,692 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure under BharatNet project.

Maharashtra
 (i). Common Services Centers (CSCs): 60,644 CSCs are functional. Out of them, 47,121 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat level.
 (ii). Digital Village: 34 Gram Panchayats/ Villages from Maharashtra have been covered under the pilot project for Digital Village.
 (iii). e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP): 389 e-services have been launched in all 36 districts of Maharashtra.
 (iv). Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA): In the state of Maharashtra, training has been imparted to 38,92,872 candidates out of which 27,90,623 candidates have been certified.
 (v). BharatNet: 22,124 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready with broadband infrastructure under BharatNet project.

(d) and (e): Digital India also actively advocates and works with State Governments for development of technology & entrepreneurship in various Tier-2 & Tier-3 towns of India led by organizations like Software Technology Park of India (STPI) & National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). Further, National Informatics Centre (NIC), an attached office of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has its State Centres at State level and District level all over India. These State and District Centres continuously guide and assist various State & District level Government Offices in developing and implementing various ICT applications. NIC also provides various citizen centric services through its products and platforms such as e-Hospital, e-Counseling, Service plus, e-Transport, Jeevan Pramaan, National Scholarship Portal etc for fulfilling aspirations of the citizens. Further, any citizen can access digital services on UMANG Mobile App and also through Common Services Centers in assisted mode as Common Services Centers have vast network which provide digital services delivery in villages.

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