GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *322
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.12.2016

COVERAGE OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

*322.   SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) the status of implementation of Digital India Programme in the country;

(b) whether all villages and remote towns of the country have been covered by basic communication/internet services;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how long will it take to cover the entire country; and

(d) how Government is going to attain the target of cashless society/mobile transactions, etc., as being propagated nowadays, in the absence of communication/ basic internet facilities?

ANSWER
MINISTER   FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO *322 FOR 16-12-2016 REGARDING COVERAGE OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME
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(a): The status of implementation of some of the major initiatives under Digital India Programme in the country is as follows:-

- Under National Optical Fibre (NOFN)/ BharatNet project, optical fibre cable has been laid upto 1,48,814 kms covering 64,955 Gram Panchayats.
- 2,56,493 Common Services Centres have been registered. 1.75 lakh CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of e-Services; out of which 1.22 lakh are at Gram Panchayats level.
- Over 108.95 crore Aadhaar registration have been done.
- e-Office has been implemented in 206 Government offices.
- The portfolio of Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) has been increased from 31 MMPs to 44 MMPs under e-Kranti. 29 MMPs are providing full/partial services, 5 MMPs are under implementation and 10 are under design, development and scoping stage. These MMPs are delivering more than 64 crore e-Transactions per month.
- MyGov platform, a medium to seek ideas/ suggestions from Citizen, has been implemented. 22 Mann Ki Baat, 52 Groups, 574 Tasks, 630 Discussion Themes, 207 Polls/Surveys and 99 Talks are operational on MyGov. 38.94 lakh registered users. 34.66 lakh comments for 630 discussions.
- Open Government Data platform has been implemented, which exposes government data to citizens. 45,237 datasets have been contributed by 111 Departments under 4,046 catalogs.
- Under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs), 249 Investment proposals with a proposed investment of Rs. 1,27,880 crores have been received as of November 2016.
- 12 Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and 1 Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Brownfield have been approved.
- 48,300 seats have been approved under India BPO scheme (IBPS) and over 5000 seats have been approved for North East BPOs (NEBPS). Around 60 companies have been declared successful to setup BPO/ITES operations of ~13,500 seats across the country under IBPS and NEBPS.
- Under Digital Literacy Program (Digital Saksharta Abhiyan), more than 1 crore candidates have been registered. Around 82.74 lakh candidates have been trained and more than 53.37 lakh candidates have been certified.
- SMS based weather information and disaster alerts have been made operational.
- Over 40.54 lakh residents have created their accounts on Digital Locker. More than 53.83 lakh documents have been uploaded on it. The Digital Locker rules 2016 have been notified.
- Government e-Market Place (GeM) has been implemented to enable sellers/service providers to have direct and easy access to the government departments to sell their products or provide their services at competitive prices. Presently, there are about 2938 products, 1040 Government buyers and 1234 sellers on the portal.
- e-Mandi (National Agriculture Market) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Currently, 262 APMC of 11 State has been integrated in NAM Platform.
- Under National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG) project, the multi-layered Geographical Information System (GIS) platform has been made operational for sharing, collaboration, location

based analytics and decision support system for Departments. Currently, 8 applications across various domains are operational.

- Jeevan Pramaan portal has more than 38.47 lakh registered pensioners.
- Online Registration System (ORS) has been made operational in 58 hospitals and 41.65 lakh online appointments have been provided so far.
- e-Payment Framework has been implemented to enable all payments and receipts in electronic mode across all Government Ministries and Departments.

- 180.55 crore emails have been sent on 340 campaigns through SAMPARK (IT platform for messages) in last two years.
- The Government e-Greetings portal has 766 cards for more than 43 categories.
- Biometric Attendance has been implemented in 676 organisations covering 2.04 lakh employees.
- 7392 users have registered on National Portal for Lost & Found children (Khoya-Paya). 5722 are being sighted and 931 missing children have been reported through the portal.
- The National Scholarships Portal, a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process, has been implemented. 23 scholarship schemes from 16 Ministries / Departments have been registered.

(b) and (c): The Government of India is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NoFN)/ BharatNet project to provide broadband/internet connectivity in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. So far, optical fibre cable has been laid upto 1.48 lakh kms covering 64,955 GPs.

It has been envisaged to extend mobile connectivity to 55,669 uncovered villages. The schemes/ projects to extend the mobile connectivity to around 18,000 uncovered villages are at various stages of implementation as detailed below:

(i)   Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region, the tender work has been started to provide connectivity to 8621 identified uncovered villages in North Eastern region by March 2018.
(ii) Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, in-principle approval has been accorded to provide mobile connectivity in these islands.
(iii) 2186 out of 2199 planned mobile towers have been setup in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected states.
(iv) 4752 uncovered villages in Himalayan States and 2138 villages in border states have been planned to be covered.

(d):   To provide broadband/internet connectivity in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country, the Government of India is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NoFN) project, under which the optical fibre cable has been laid upto 1.48 lakh kms covering 64,955 GPs. The Government is implementing Common Services Centre (CSC) project, under which the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity have been set up to provide various Government, private and social services at the doorstep of citizens. The current number of registered CSCs is 2,56,493; out of these 1.75 lakh CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of e-Services; out of these 1.22 lakh are at GP level.

In the direction of making cashless society, the Government has undertaken following steps:

(i) Various modes of digital payments have been made available with different connectivity requirements (Internet or Basic mobile) as indicated below:

S. N.	Mode of Payment	Connectivity Requirement
1	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD)	Basic mobile without internet
2	Mobile Wallet/Mobile Apps	Internet at user end
3	Credit/ Debit Card	Internet at merchant end
4	Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system	Internet at user end
5	Aadhaar Enabled payment System (AEPS)	Internet at merchant end

(ii) The Government of India is implementing 'Digital Finance For Rural India: Creating Awareness And Access Through CSCs' scheme as *'Digi Dhan Abhiyan',* which aims to enable the CSCs to become Digital Financial Hubs by conducting awareness sessions on government policies and digital finance options available for rural citizens as well as enabling various mechanisms of digital financial services such as Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Bank Point of sale (PoS) machines etc. The project would reach out to all 2.5 lakh GPs through operational CSCs at rural and semi-urban locations. The project intends to reach out to around 1 crore rural citizens pan India. Each CSC would reach out to 40 households in the catchment area, covering one person from each household. Apart from rural citizens, each CSC would also target on an average 10 Merchants per Panchayat to facilitate them in getting POS machines or digital payment mechanisms. The target group covered under the project will include the most vulnerable and poor communities, with a focus on women, farmers, marginalized sections, hawkers, small traders and artisans. Currently, drives have been completed in 472 districts and 1260 blocks. 5,44950 rural citizens have been registered under the scheme, out of which 508754 citizens have been enabled with at least one Electronic Payment System mode. 19997 shopkeepers/hawkers/traders etc have been enabled on the Electronic Payment System mode.

(iii) The Scheduled Commercial Banks have already taken various initiatives for expanding card acceptance infrastructure to Semi-urban and Rural areas to provide cashless transaction system.

(iv) The Government has advised banks to deploy micro ATMs in rural areas in all Sub Service Areas (SSAs) across the country. 1,14,036 micro ATMs have been deployed as on 02.12.2016.

(v) To expand digital payment acceptance infrastructure in rural areas, the Government through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has planned to extend financial support to eligible banks for deployment of 2 Point of Sale (PoS) devices in 1 lakh villages with population of less than 10,000. These PoS machines are intended to be deployed at primary agriculture cooperative societies/ milk societies/ agricultural input dealers to facilitate small trade and agri-related transactions through digital means.

(vi) The Government through NABARD has also planned to support Rural Regional Banks and Rural Cooperative Banks to procure and issue "RupayKisan Cards" to 4.32 crore Kisan Credit Card holders to enable them to make digital transactions at PoS machines/ Micro ATMs/ ATMs.

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