

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 492
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.02.2020

IMPLEMENTATION OF 'DIGITAL INDIA' SCHEME

492. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

- (a) what is the status of implementation of 'Digital India' Scheme in the country, particularly for the benefit of the farmers of the country; and
- (b) whether all villages and remote towns of the country have been covered by basic communication/internet services, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how long will it take to cover the entire country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): Government of India has approved a scheme namely 'Digital India' programme on 20th August, 2014 and formally launched the scheme on 1st July, 2015 with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India programme covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments & States/UTs. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing Ministry/departments. 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. Agriculture is one of the Mission Mode Project(MMP) under Digital India Programme.

Digital India Programme aims at bridging the digital divide and taking the benefits of digital services to all citizens especially rural population that also includes farmers. The status of major schemes focused exclusively on farmers and rural population under Digital India are as follow:

S. N.	Major Scheme under Digital India programme	Status
1	Knowledge based information	Knowledge based information is being provided to farmers through a number of web and mobile based applications including the Farmers' Portal (www.farmer.gov.in), mKisan Portal (www.mkisan.gov.in) and Kisan Call Centres (KCC). These Portals are facilitating knowledge based information and advisories to farmers through an

		integrated web portal and mobile based platforms respectively.
2	SMS Portal/mKisan Portal	Department has developed a portal - mkisan(mkisan.gov.in), where more than 5.13 crore farmers are registered and experts/scientists of different departments like IMD, ICAR, State Government, State Agriculture Universities send information to farmers in 12 local languages. Around 2462 crore SMSs have been sent through mkisan since its inception.
3	Kisan Suvidha	It is an omnibus mobile app to help farmers by providing relevant information to them quickly. It has a simple interface and provides information on critical parameters—weather, input dealers, market price, plant protection, expert advisories, cold storage & godowns, crop insurance, veterinary centres and diagnostics labs. An additional tab directly connects the farmer with the Kisan Call Centre where agriculture experts answer their queries. Total downloads: 9,85,203.
4	PM-Kisan provides incentives to farmers.	8.7 Crore farmers are enrolled and validated.
5	Soil Health Card provides farm related advisory services to farmers.	11.4 Crore soil health cards has been dispatched to farmers.
6	Fasal Bima Yojana provides crop insurance to farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82 lakh farmers are making use of it. • Area measuring 1.35 crore hectare is covered. • The sum insured is Rs 57510 crore.
7	eNAM facilitates better price for crops to farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 585 Mandis across 16 States and 2 UTs are on-boarded on e-NAM. • 1.65 Crore farmers are making use of it. • 1.27 lakh traders are also using it.
8	Common Services Centres is providing digital services to rural / semi-urban population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.65 lakh CSCs are operational across the country. • 2.69 Lakh CSCs are operational at Gram Panchayat level. • 37,847 CSCs are run by Women Entrepreneurs. • Around 350 Services are delivered by CSCs.

(b): As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that there are 27,721 inhabited villages (as per the Census 2011) in the country, which are not covered by mobile services. The reasons for not having mobile services in these villages include, inter-alia, remote & tough terrains, areas diversely located with scattered population and commercially non-viable operations. Mobile coverage in these villages is being provided by the Government and Telecom Service Providers in phased manner. Internet is also being accessed mainly through mobile wireless 2G, 3G and 4G technologies.

BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband/internet connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. A total of 1,34,248 GPs including Block Headquarters (BHQs) have been made Service Ready as on 24.01.2020.
