

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2824
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.08.2018

IT AWARENESS IN RURAL AREAS

2824. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of action taken by Government to increase IT awareness in rural areas of the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to increase the internet connectivity in the State of Kerala and if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to use the IT for helping villagers in the areas of education, training, health-care, agriculture, etc., and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY), Government of India is implementing a scheme titled “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) by 31.03.2019. Besides digital literacy, the beneficiaries under the PMGDISHA scheme would also be trained on use of electronic payment system covering UPI (including BHIM app), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data(USSD), Point of Sale (PoS), Aadhar enabled payment system (AEPS), Cards, and Internet Banking.

As on 6th August, 2018, a total of 1.27 crore candidates have been enrolled under PMGDISHA. Training has been imparted to 1.25 crore candidates and out of this more than 65 Lakh candidates have been certified.

(b): Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. BharatNet project is being implemented by DoT in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) by broadband in the country including state of Kerala.

As on 5th August, 2018, under BharatNet project, by laying a total length of 830 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), 1,129 GPs (including Block Headquarters) has been made Service Ready in the state of Kerala.

Further, under a project funded by USOF, Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at its 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges in the country. A total of 450 exchanges have been provided with Wi-Fi connectivity in Kerala. In addition to this, BSNL has also provided Wi-Fi hotspots at 555 GPs in Kerala.

(c): Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing various schemes such as National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), PMGDISHA, e-Hospital, National Agriculture Market(eNAM), Soil Health card, etc. for helping villagers in the areas of education, training, health-care, agriculture. In addition to above schemes, Common Services Centres(CSCs) deliver a range of services related to social welfare schemes, financial services, education & skill development, healthcare, agriculture and digital literacy.
