

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2325**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.08.2017

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME**

**2325. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA:**

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; and
- (c). 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 P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments & States/UTs and is being coordinated by MeitY. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing departments.

Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to nine pillars of growth areas: (i) Broadband Highways, (ii) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, (iii) Public Internet Access Programme, (iv) e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology, (v) e-Kranti– Electronic delivery of services, (vi) Information for All, (vii) Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports, (viii) IT for Jobs and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes. The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken by MeitY under Digital India programme is as follows:

**Pillar 1: Broadband Highways**

- Under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet project, 2.22 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,322 GPs and 26,548 GPs have been connected till 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

**Pillar 2: Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity**

- Rural Tele-density is 56.98% (as on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017).

**Pillar 3: Public Internet Access Programme** (as on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017)

- 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayats(GP) level. Out of the total registered Common Services Centre, 2,61,071 CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of eServices; out of which, 1,63,226 are at GP level.

**Pillar 4: E-Governance: Reforming government through Technology** (as on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017)

- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Further to give statutory backing to Aadhaar 'The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016' was notified. Over 116 crore residents have been enrolled.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer(DBT):** As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, 140 schemes of 51 Ministries/ Departments are there on DBT platform. Till date, an amount of more than Rs. 2.14 Lakh Crore has been transferred through DBT and the Ministries/Departments have reported savings of Rs. 57,029 crores in last three years due to implementation of schemes in DBT mode.
- Number of user Departments for e-Office is 263.

**Pillar 5: eKranti- Electronic delivery of services**

- 3438 e-services are being provided through 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under e-Kranti. More than 1221.68 crore e-transactions with an average of 101.80 crore transaction per month were done during Financial Year 2016-17.

**Pillar 6: Information for All** (as on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017)

- **MyGov Platform:** 45 Ministries are engaged actively on MyGov platform, reaching out to the citizens through the fundamental concepts of Do, Discuss and Disseminate. Presently, 45.28 lakh users are registered with MyGov,

participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform. MyGov activities are structured under 61 groups consisting of 660 tasks, 728 discussions, 238 Polls/Surveys and 148 talks.

- **Open Government Data platform:** The portal is intended to be used by Government of India Ministries/Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use. Over 1,06,372 resources under 4189 catalogs have been published by 105 Ministries/Departments (81 Central and 24 states).

**Pillar 7: Electronics Manufacturing - Target NET ZERO Imports** (as on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017)

- 233 Investment proposals under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs) having a proposed investment of Rs. 1.44 lakh crores have been received so far. 97 proposals with proposed investments of Rs. 20,809 crores have been approved.
- 15 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) have been granted final approval and are under implementation.
- Electronic Development Fund has been launched and 22 daughter funds have been approved with a commitment of Rs. 1,227 Cr involving a total targeted corpus of Rs. 10,900 Cr.

**Pillar 8: IT for Jobs** (as on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017)

- 48,300 seats have been approved under India BPO scheme and over 18,160 seats have been allocated.
- 5000 seats have been approved for BPOs in North East and 1,610 seats have been allocated.
- Under Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) Scheme, around 53.46 lakh candidates have been certified.

**Pillar 9: Early Harvest Programme** (as on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017)

- Over 77 lakh Digital Lockers have been opened. About 95.87 lakh documents have been self-uploaded and more than 187 crore documents have been issued. 31 Issuers and 9 Requester Organizations have been on-boarded. Digital Locker Authority has been constituted and Digital Locker rules have been notified.
- e-Hospital/Online Registration System (ORS) has been made operational in 121 hospitals and more than 65 lakh appointments have been taken online.
- More than 3.54 lakh contributors are now registered on the Digitize India platform. More than 9.99 lakh documents are digitized through Digitize India platform.
- **Public Wi-Fi hotspots:** Wi-Fi services have been provided at 86 tourist sites across the country.
- **The National Scholarships Portal(NSP),** a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process, have been implemented. Over 1.21 crore applications have been submitted through NSP. There are 20 registered schemes from 8 Ministries/Departments.
- **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG)** provides Geographical Information System (GIS) based services to Government Ministries/Departments for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system (DSS) for various organizations. So far, 20 applications across various domains are operational.
- Rapid Assessment System has been integrated with 893 e-Services of 202 departments in 25 States/UTs.
- **Jeevan Pramaan** is an Aadhaar enabled biometric Digital Life Certificate for pensioners. More than 84 lakh pensioners have registered themselves to avail of this facility for their life certificates.
- **eSign - Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Four agencies namely (i) eMudhra Ltd., (ii) C-DAC, (iii) nCode Solutions and (iv) NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd have been empanelled to offer e-Sign Services. More than 1.79 crore eSign have been issued.

(b) and (c): The steps taken by the Government to connect villages and remote towns of the country with basic communication/internet services are as follows:

(i). **BharatNet:** Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It has been envisaged to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.50 lakhs) in the country. The project is planned to be implemented in three phases: Under the first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) which is under implementation and expected to be completed by November 2017. Under the second Phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, and provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country, which is targeted to be completed by March, 2019. Under the third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the BharatNet project, 2.40 Lakh KMs of pipeline has been laid in 1,07,066 GPs, 2.22 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,322 GPs and 26,548 GPs have been connected till 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

**(ii). National Information Infrastructure (NII):** A pilot project on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year of operation was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

**(iii) Common Services Centre (CSC):** Common Services Centres (CSCs now known as Digital Seva Kendras) are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Governments, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen. So far 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level covering around 1,66,537 GPs out of the target of 2.5 lakhs of GPs. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, out of which, 1,63,226 CSCs are functioning at GP level.

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