IT SERVICES IN VILLAGES

3508. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of villages that got access to IT services during the last two years;

(b) whether any special initiatives have been taken by the Government to provide IT services to rural and backward regions of the country, State/UT-wise especially for the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government intends to provide accessible IT services to all the villages in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is proposed to be completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has apprised that it has been implementing the BharatNet project in a phased manner to create network to connect Gram Panchayats (GPs)/ villages with broadband in the country, till the year 2025. State-wise details of GPs planned and service-ready is at Annexure-I. Further, on 30.6.2021, in-principle approval has been accorded for extending BharatNet beyond GPs to villages.

Information technology (IT) services in villages are delivered using reliable connectivity. In this regard, it is further informed that Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been setup across the country, under the CSC 2.0 Project under the Digital India programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle, is the implementing agency. The project aims to deliver e-services to rural citizens through CSCs and expand the CSC network till the Gram Panchayat level. During the two-year period from January 2021 to January 2023, a total of 1,49,358 CSCs in 1,37,170 Gram Panchayats have been set up and made functional across the country.

(b) and (c): DoT has apprised that the Government of India has launched a scheme titled "Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for FY 2022-23". Under thescheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments in the form of a 50-year interest-free loan for capital investment projects. Guidelines on the said scheme have been issued by the Department of Expenditure. Under Part V (Optical Fibre Cable) of the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore is earmarked for States, for capital projects on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network. DoT has apprised that proposals from 27 State Governments have been received under Part V. After examination of the proposals by DoT, proposals of 26 State Governments(including the Government of Uttar Pradesh), amounting to Rs.2,894 crore, have been recommended to the Department of Expenditure, which has approved projects amounting to Rs.2,626 crore in respect of 23 States, including the State of Uttar Pradesh. Details are at Annexure-II.

(d): Yes, Sir. DoT has apprised that, as of March 2022, out of 6,44,131 villages around 6,05,230 villages have mobile connectivity in the country. State-wise details of mobile

coverage status in the country, as of March 2022, are at Annexure-III. DoT has also apprised that in-principle approval has been accorded on30.6.2021for extending BharatNet beyond GPs upto villages and the completion of BharatNet Project is targeted by the year 2025.

It is further informed that the Government is providing IT services in GPs, such as government services, financial services and services related to Aadhaar, various social welfare schemes, education, telemedicine, travel bookings, utility payments, etc., through CSCs.Details of various services being provided by CSCs across the country are at Annexure IV.

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Annexure-I

BharatNet details in respect of Gram Panchayats (GPs) planned and service-ready

S.N.	States/Union territories	Total number of GPs	Number of GPs made service-ready
1	Assam	2,665	1,511
2	Bihar	8,404	8,316
3	Chhattisgarh	11,673	9,552
4	Haryana	6,256	6,082
5	Jammu and Kashmir	4,299	1,092
6	Karnataka	6,090	6,084
7	Kerala	978	978
8	Madhya Pradesh	22,844	17,813
9	Maharashtra	27,939	23,830
10	Punjab	13,337	12,668
11	Rajasthan	11,352	8,770
12	Uttar Pradesh	59,365	41,512
13	Uttarakhand	7,936	1,824
14	West Bengal	3,348	2,564
15	Sikkim	185	35
16	Chandigarh	12	12
17	Lakshadweep	10	9
18	Arunachal Pradesh	1,796	964
19	Nagaland	983	232
20	Manipur	2,782	1,467
21	Mizoram	762	452
22	Tripura	1,114	729
23	Meghalaya	1,792	682
24	Gujarat	14,324	14,230
25	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	38	38
26	Puducherry	110	98
27	Andhra Pradesh	13,416	5,206
28	Telangana	12,769	9,149
29	Odisha	6,798	6,782
30	Jharkhand	4,416	4,354
31	Himachal Pradesh	3,616	408
32	Ladakh	193	192
33	Goa	191	0
34	Tamil Nadu	12,525	1,553
35	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	70	68
	Total	**2,64,388**	**1,89,256**

Source: Department of Telecommunications

Details of proposals approved by the Department of Expenditure under Part V (Optical Fibre Cable) of the "Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23"

S.N.	State	Amount recommended by the Department of Telecommunications (in crore Rs.)	Amount approved by the Ministry of Finance (in crore Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	126	126
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	50
3.	Assam	79	79
4.	Chhattisgarh	65	65
5.	Goa	50	50
6.	Gujarat	154	154
7.	Haryana	65	65
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50	50
9.	Jharkhand	84	84
10.	Karnataka	156	156
11.	Kerala	85	85
12.	Madhya Pradesh	185	185
13.	Maharashtra	286	286
14.	Manipur	50	50
15.	Meghalaya	50	50
16.	Mizoram	50	50
17.	Rajasthan	175	175
18.	Sikkim	50	50
19.	Tamil Nadu	184	184
20.	Tripura	50	50
21.	Uttar Pradesh	300	300
22.	Uttarakhand	50	50
23.	West Bengal	232	232
	Total	**2,894**	**2,626**

Source: Department of Telecommunications

Mobile coverage status of the villages of country as of March 2022

S. N.	State/Union territory	Number of villages	
		As per data of the Registrar General of India (as of November 2019)	With mobile connectivity
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	559	298
2	Andhra Pradesh	17,328	14,357
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,993	2,912
4	Assam	26,429	24,346
5	Bihar	44,888	44,634
6	Chhattisgarh	20,072	18,185
7	Chandigarh	NA	NA
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	95	62
9	Goa	392	351
10	Gujarat	18,425	17,858
11	Haryana	6,640	6,633
12	Himachal Pradesh	20,852	19,370
13	Jammu and Kashmir	6,474	5,652
14	Jharkhand	32,370	30,298
15	Karnataka	29,818	28,697
16	Kerala	1,438	1,385
17	Ladakh	243	124
18	Lakshadweep	27	23
19	Madhya Pradesh	55,058	51,966
20	Maharashtra	43,931	40,810
21	Manipur	2,612	2,142
22	Meghalaya	7,100	4,672
23	Mizoram	867	626
24	Nagaland	1,535	1,115
25	National Capital Territory of Delhi	55	55
26	Odisha	51,176	44,584
27	Puducherry	96	95
28	Punjab	12,534	12,524
29	Rajasthan	46,077	42,761
30	Sikkim	461	157
31	Tamil Nadu	16,488	16,104
32	Telangana	10,203	10,000
33	Tripura	937	638
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,05,531	1,05,257
35	Uttarakhand	16,456	15,701
36	West Bengal	40,971	40,838
	Total	**6,44,131**	**6,05,230**

Source: Department of Telecommunications

Number of CSCs

S.N.	State/Union territory	Total number of CSCs (urban andrural)	Functional CSCs at Gram Panchayat level
1	Andhra Pradesh	10,148	7,556
2	Arunachal Pradesh	211	158
3	Assam	12,606	11,517
4	Bihar	54,356	48,660
5	Chhattisgarh	19,143	15,305
6	Goa	234	174
7	Gujarat	15,669	10,998
8	Haryana	19,585	13,729
9	Himachal Pradesh	5,225	4,594
10	Jharkhand	21,674	18,958
11	Karnataka	9,655	6,317
12	Kerala	7,479	5,833
13	Madhya Pradesh	44,406	33,696
14	Maharashtra	57,024	44,422
15	Manipur	958	780
16	Meghalaya	954	849
17	Mizoram	419	286
18	Nagaland	518	359
19	Odisha	17,395	15,273
20	Punjab	11,211	7,799
21	Rajasthan	23,553	19,098
22	Sikkim	112	96
23	Tamil Nadu	14,510	9,786
24	Telangana	7,100	5,098
25	Tripura	1,856	1,577
26	Uttar Pradesh	1,20,076	95,579
27	Uttarakhand	9,450	7,007
28	West Bengal	25,448	23,026
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	91	63
30	Chandigarh	133	10
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveliand Daman and Diu	106	72
32	Delhi	4,233	176
33	Jammu and Kashmir	7,284	6,125
34	Ladakh	101	88
35	Lakshadweep	10	10
36	Puducherry	275	154
	Total	**5,23,208**	**4,15,228**

Source: CSC e-Governance Service India Limited

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