

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2167
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018

e-Panchayat project

2167. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount spent on the e-Panchayat project;
- (b) the total number of Panchayats at present that have been equipped with a Common Service Centre (CSC); and
- (c) the total number of digital villages at present in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP), wherein a suite of Core Common applications, collectively known as Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) has been developed to address various aspects of Panchayat functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licenses etc. Total amount Rs. 116.40 crore has been released for undertaking various activities under e-Panchayat MMP during the period 2008-09 to 2017-18.

(b) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), initiated a project namely, "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme for a period of four years, which aimed to set up at least one CSC at Gram Panchayat (GP) level to cover all 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. As informed by MeitY, at present, 2,10,314 Gram Panchayats have CSC facilities.

(c) For attaining the vision of Digital India, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is implementing the BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to all GPs of the country. DoT has reported that as on 29th July, 2018, there are 1,13,549 Service Ready GPs. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is provided at all the GPs in the country. At each GP, 5 Access Points (APs) are provided, out of which 3 APs are at Government institution and 2 APs at public places. As of June 2018, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 29,747 GPs and out of them, service provisioning is at 7,955 GPs.

All States are making efforts to implement e-Panchayat MMP at Gram Panchayat level, based on their available resources. However, due to differentials in the level of preparedness of Panchayats across the country, States are at different stages of implementing these applications. Besides, some States also have their own State-specific applications for similar purposes. Various e-Panchayat software are at different levels of adoption. For the Financial Year 2017-18, total 2,09,105 Gram Panchayats have uploaded plans in PlanPlus software. For Financial Year 2016-17 total 2,19,887 Gram Panchayats have closed their account books on PRIASoft and States' own specific accounting application. PlanPlus and PRIASoft are important PES applications of e-Panchayat MMP developed under Digital India.