GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1515
ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**CONNECTING PRIs THROUGH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

1515. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to connect all Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) with information technology network;

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

(c) whether such connectivity is likely to make PRIs more effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Panchayat being a State subject, providing basic infrastructure including computers etc. and connecting them with information technology network are primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government/ UT administration. However, Government has taken initiatives to provide internet/e-Panchayat facility and connect all Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country.

For attaining the vision of Digital India, BharatNet project has been implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats by broadband in the country. As on 16th December 2018, a total of 1,16,457 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready. As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity is sought to provide through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services to all the GPs in the country.

Upto 10% of the Grants under Fourteenth Finance Commission can be used by GPs as technical and administrative support towards Operation & Maintenance and Capital expenditure. Among other activities, expenditure towards (i) purchase of computer and accessories as well as cost of Annual Maintenance Cost in GPs, which do not have any computer at present and (ii) one-time cost for providing internet connectivity and recurring charges can also be incurred from the 10 % Operation & Maintenance expenditure.

Under the erstwhile scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) had provided financial assistance to States/ UTs for e-enablement including computers and peripherals till 2014-15. Under the newly launched scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), funds have been provided to States/UTs for purchasing computer for their e-enablement on a limited scale.

MoPR has been implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) that seeks to transform the functioning of all the PRIs, making them more transparent, accountable and effective as organs of decentralized self-governing institutions. Under e-Panchayat, a suite of core software applications has been developed to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licenses, tax collection etc.

*****