GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1045
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2023

ACCESS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1045.   SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) the salient features of the schemes being implemented by Government to increase the access of Information Technology in the country;
(b) whether any effort is being made by Government to increase the access of Information technology to the people living in rural, hilly and far flung areas of the country including Chhattisgarh; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government has launched the Digital India programme with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-based economy, by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. The programme is centred on three key vision areas, namely digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens. The overall goal is to ensure that digital technologies improve the life of every citizen, expand India's digital economy, and creating investment and employment opportunities and create digital technological capabilities in India.

Digital India has considerably reduced the distance between Government and citizens. It has also helped in delivery of substantial services directly to the beneficiary in a transparent and corruption free manner. In the process, India has emerged as one of the pre-eminent nations of the world to use technology to transform the lives of its citizens.

(b) and (c):   Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government to make information technology accessible to the people living in rural, hilly and far-flung areas of the country including the State of Chhattisgarh are as follows:

(i) Common Services Centres (CSCs):The Common Services Centres are digital service delivery centres. CSCs are offering government and business services in rural areas through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). So far, 5.35 lakh CSCs are functional, out of which 4.24 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat level.

(ii) Digital Village Pilot Project: 700 Gram Panchayats/villages with at least one Gram Panchayat/village per district per State/UT are being covered under the project. The digital services being offered are Digital Health Services, Education Services, Financial Services, Skill Development and Solar panel powered street lights.

(iii) e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):e-District is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) that aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services at the district or sub-district level. Presently 4,671 e-services have been launched in 713 districts across India.

(iv)   Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA): PMGDISHA is the scheme to make six crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate by covering one member from rural households. So far, a total of around 6.69 crore candidates have been enrolled and 5.76 crore have been trained under the PMGDISHA Scheme.

 (v)   BharatNet: BharatNet is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to connect about 6 lakh inhabited villages including Gram Panchayats (GPs) with broadband facility in the country. As on date, total 1,91,751 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country.

Apart from the above, many other initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), DigiLocker, e-Hospital, MyGov and MeriPehchaan, etc. also enable access to various e-services using information technology.

****