GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1041**
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.07.2023

**PROMOTION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AMONG MASSES**

**1041. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:**

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

(a) whether Government has launched several schemes to promote the use of digital
technology among masses in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the salient features of the schemes being implemented by Government to promote the use
of information technology in the country;
(d) whether special efforts have been made by Government to increase the access of
information technology to people living in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country;
and
(e) if so, the details thereof including the State of Jharkhand?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c):    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 create investment and jobs &
transform India from consumer of technology to becoming a producer of technology and a
trusted tech player for the world.

Digital India has considerably bridged the distance between Government and citizens and
enhanced trust on government and governance. It has also helped in the delivery of services
directly to beneficiaries 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.

To enhance digital adoption, Government has taken several steps to promote the use of
digital technology among masses in the country. Some of the key initiatives undertaken
under Digital India programme are as follows:

(i)    Common Service Centres (CSCs) provide assisted delivery of digital services to citizen
in rural area to bridge digital divide. As per information furnished by CSC
e-Governance Services India Limited, as on May, 2023, 5,21,150 CSCs were functional
across the country, out of which 4,13,999 CSCs were functional at the Gram Panchayat
level.

(ii)    DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national platform for
school education. It aims to facilitate digital learning and assessment among school

going children and also to impart training to teacher community. As on 25 July 2023, 524 crore learning sessions and 9,692 courses have been facilitated through DIKSHA. 16.87 Crore people have enrolled, and 13.77 crore people have completed courses at DIKSHA.

(iii) UPI (Unified Payment Interface) provides digital payment platform, and it has on boarded 458 banks and has built digital payment ecosystem in the country. As on 31 June 2023, UPI has facilitated monthly transactions of 933 Crore by volume and INR 14.75 lakh crore by value.

(iv) Digital locker: Digital Locker provides an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. So far, 17.86 crore registered user of DigiLocker. 593 crore authentic documents have been issued.

(v) Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG): UMANG has been developed as a single mobile platform to deliver major Government services with Core Platform integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) etc. Over 21,920 services of over 324 Central/State Government departments are already available on UMANG platform.

(vi) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been launched to make available and accessible quality digital healthcare to common citizens in India. 43.4 Crore people have been allocated ABHA (Health ID) and 28.54 Crore ABHA linked Electronic Health Record have been created. As a part of national tele-healthcare platform, E-Sanjeevani is serving patient / people right at their home through the use of mobile or digital devices. E-Sanjeevani has so far served 14.12 crore patients.

(vii) MyGov: MyGov is a first-of-its-kind citizen engagement platform for participatory governance in India. MyGov aims to facilitate a dialogue between citizens and Government, bringing citizens closer to the Government and bringing the Government closer to the citizens it serves, via this platform. Presently, over 3.21 Crore users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform.

(viii) Aadhaar based Authentication and e-KYC: Aadhaar having the enrolment of 137 crore is also playing a big role in promoting use of technology among masses. 9637 Crore authentications have been facilitated so far. People are using Aadhaar based authentication especially for ration under One Nation One Ration Card, which is benefitting 79.76 crore people.

(ix) Social Media Handle of Digital India: Digital India handles have been created on the popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube, Instagram, Koo, etc. Its twitter handle has 20.28 lakh followers, facebook has 14 lakh followers, Instagram has 4.7 lakh followers.

(x) PMGDISHA Scheme: The Government launched a Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India with a target to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries are trained to operate computers/digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertake cashless transactions, etc. As of now, more than 7.04 crore candidates have been enrolled and 6.07 crore have been trained, out of which 4.52 crore candidates have been duly certified.

(xi) IT for Masses Programme :IT for Masses Programme under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme (erstwhile Manpower Development scheme) of the Digital India Programme (umbrella scheme) is aimed at narrowing the Digital Divide by initiating/promoting activities in ICT for focus groups (Women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Senior Citizens, Differently Abled & Economic Weaker Section (EWS) and underprivileged areas (North Eastern Region, Backward Districts and Blocks & Districts having more than 40% SC/ST population) for inclusive growth of IT Sectors through Infrastructure Creation, Training, Capacity Building & Entrepreneurship Creation activities in IT domain. Under this programme, Grant-in-Aid support is provided for projects. This support is given for IT Infrastructure Creation, Deployment of IT Tools, IT and Electronics Training and Capacity Building, Cluster Development & Entrepreneurship Creation activities in the IT domain. From the F.Y. 2014-15 onwards MeitY has funded various projects in 28 States & 8 UTs which have

benefitted directly 96,768 Scheduled Castes & 49,108 Schedule Tribes and 24,421 women candidates.

(d) to (e):    Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government to make information technology accessible to the people living in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country including the State of Jharkhand are as follows:

(i)   Common Services Centres (CSCs): Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been set up under an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV), is the implementing agency. These CSCs are run on a self-sustainable basis by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). The CSC initiative aims to deliver e-services to rural citizens through CSCs and expand the CSC network till the Gram Panchayat level. Over 400 services are being delivered through CSCs, including government services, financial services and services related to Aadhaar, various social welfare schemes, education, telemedicine, travel bookings, utility payments, etc.  As per information furnished by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, as on May, 2023, 5,21,150 CSCs were functional across the country, out of which 4,13,999 CSCs were 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) Under BharatNet project broadband connectivity is being provided to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages in the country. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. As on 30.06.2023, 1,94,909 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country. In the state of Jharkhand, as on 30.06.2023, 4378 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project.

(iv)  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 technology-based services to entire country including the hilly terrain and rural areas.

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