GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 562
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

Smart Panchayat Innovation Initiative

562. SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to State:

(a) the details of the Smart Panchayat Innovation Initiative being showcased in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2024;
(b) the details and impact of the 'Gram Manchitra Application' and how it is transforming the governance at panchayat level;
(c) whether Government is taking any other step to improve the use of technological advancements at the panchayat levels; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a)   The Vibrant Gujarat Trade Show held from 9th to 13th January 2024 highlighted a comprehensive array of Smart Panchayat initiatives aimed at transforming rural areas into technologically empowered and socially inclusive communities. These initiatives covered various aspects such as smart infrastructure, advanced healthcare, digital connectivity, energy sustainability, smart services, and smart community development. For instance, the emphasis on Smart Panchayat Bhawans provided essential citizen services and support for e-Governance applications, while initiatives like telemedicine ecosystems and modernized schools underscored the importance of healthcare and education in rural development. Additionally, the focus on digital connectivity through high-speed internet access and energy sustainability measures like solar power adoption demonstrated a commitment to bridging the rural-urban divide and promoting environmental conservation.

(b)   In order to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat, Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra" (https://grammanchitra.gov.in). This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology. It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental

works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). These initiatives of the Ministry makes it easier for rural population to access information about their villages and to participate in the decision-making process, these initiatives are helping to make Gram Panchayats more accountable and responsive to the needs of their citizens.

(c)& (d)   Under Digital India Programme, Ministry is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) with the aim to making Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), more transparent, accountable, and effective as local self-governments. Building on the achievements in the past, the Ministry launched eGramSwaraj, a work-based comprehensive application for PRIs under the e-Panchayat MMP on 24th April 2020. This application encompasses all aspects of Panchayat functioning viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc., on a single digital platform including online payments. So far, 2.52 lakh GPs have prepared and uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for 2023-24. Further, 2.41 lakh Gram Panchayats have completed online transactions for 15th Finance Commission grants for 2023-24. State wise adoption of eGramSwaraj for 15thFinance Commission funds is given at **Annexure-I**.

Also, for strengthening the transparency and accountability at grassroots level; the Ministry has rolled out an application - AuditOnline under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP). It allows for online audit of Panchayat accounts and records detailed information about internal and external audit. For audit year 2021-22, 2.49 lakh Audit Plans have been created and 2.42 lakh Audit Report have been generated. Similarly, for audit year 2022-23, 2.02 lakh Audit Plans have been created and audit reports have been generated for 92,896 Gram Panchayats.

For attaining the vision of Digital India, BharatNet project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to create network to connect all the GPs by broadband in the country. So far, 2,14,300 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country. The scope of BharatNet on 30.06.2021 has been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country. The State/UT-wise details of Service Ready Gram panchayats is given at **Annexure-II**.

Further, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Panchayats to adopt & customize. The aim is to provide services to the people in a time bound manner, redressing their grievances and improving their lives. The 'Meri Panchayat, MeraAdhikaar- Jan Sevaayein Hamaare Dwaar' campaign was rolled out from 01st July to 30th September, 2021. The campaign had emerged as an effective strategy for ensuring the Gram Panchayats have a Citizen Charter approved by the respective Gram Sabhas in place, cataloguing the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat and the time limit for such service.

As on date, over 2.32 Lakh Gram Panchayats across 31 States/ UTs have conducted Gram Sabha and 2.15 Lakh Gram Panchayats have now finalized their Citizen Charters.

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Annexure-I

Adoption of eGramSwaraj for XV FC at Panchayat level during FY 2023-24

S. No	State Name	Total Number of Village Panchayats & Equivalent	Village Panchayat onboard	Village Panchayats & Equivalent with Online Payment	Total Number of Block Panchayats	Block Panchayat onboard	Block Panchayats with Online Payment	Total Number of Zila Panchayats	Zila Panchayat onboard	Zila Panchayats with Online Payment
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	13325	13278	13059	660	660	650	13	13	13
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	2099	1400	0	0	0	25	25	22
3	ASSAM	2606	2163	2153	191	191	191	30	27	27
4	BIHAR	8176	8175	8011	534	534	527	38	38	38
5	CHHATTISGARH	11655	11654	11032	146	146	145	27	27	27
6	GOA	191	187	71	0	0	0	2	2	2
7	GUJARAT	14627	14528	13516	248	248	248	33	33	33
8	HARYANA	6226	6207	5463	143	143	119	22	22	22
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3615	3612	3514	81	81	80	12	12	12
10	JHARKHAND	4345	4345	4340	264	264	263	24	24	24
11	KARNATAKA	5955	5955	5912	233	232	177	31	31	28
12	KERALA	941	941	910	152	152	139	14	14	14
13	MADHYA PRADESH	23032	23004	22153	313	313	306	52	52	51
14	MAHARASHTRA	27667	27579	25389	351	351	342	34	34	34
15	MANIPUR	3812	161	0	0	0	0	12	6	3
16	MEGHALAYA	6760	0	0	2240	0	0	3	3	0
17	MIZORAM	834	834	413	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	NAGALAND	1293	167	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	ODISHA	6798	6798	6776	314	314	314	30	30	30
20	PUNJAB	13241	13203	11400	152	151	135	22	22	20
21	RAJASTHAN	11255	11247	10927	362	352	351	33	33	33
22	SIKKIM	199	186	178	0	0	0	6	4	4
23	TAMIL NADU	12525	12524	12405	388	388	386	36	36	36
24	TELANGANA	12769	12768	12755	540	540	464	32	32	32
25	TRIPURA	1178	1178	1175	75	75	75	9	9	9

26	UTTARAKHAND	7794	7793	7746	95	95	94	13	13	13
27	UTTAR PRADESH	57754	57752	57241	826	826	806	75	75	75
28	WEST BENGAL	3339	3228	3225	345	336	336	22	21	21
	Total	**264020**	**251566**	**241164**	**8653**	**6392**	**6148**	**650**	**638**	**623**

Annexure-II

State/UT-wise details of Service Ready Gram panchayats

Sr.No	State Name	Total GPs/ TLBs	Service Ready GPs/TLBs	Operational GPs/TLBs
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	70	81	70
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	13325	12882	539
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	1081	133
4	ASSAM	2197	1640	531
5	BIHAR	8054	8860	3390
6	CHHATTISGARH	11654	9759	2299
7	GOA	191	0	0
8	GUJARAT	14621	14551	11490
9	HARYANA	6225	6204	1430
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3615	415	263
11	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4291	1113	440
12	JHARKHAND	4345	4638	2175
13	KARNATAKA	5953	6251	3592
14	KERALA	941	1130	971
15	LADAKH	193	193	38
16	LAKSHADWEEP	10	9	4
17	MADHYA PRADESH	23011	18102	2818
18	MAHARASHTRA	27906	24455	3424
19	MANIPUR	3651	1479	23
20	MEGHALAYA	9058	692	27
21	MIZORAM	834	495	46
22	NAGALAND	1296	230	7
23	ODISHA	6794	7099	2304
24	PUDUCHERRY	108	101	98
25	PUNJAB	13241	12807	7941
26	RAJASTHAN	11254	8997	6302
27	SIKKIM	199	54	10
28	TAMIL NADU	12525	7557	2467
29	TELANGANA	12769	10882	5385
30	THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	38	41	19
31	TRIPURA	589	771	366

32	UTTAR PRADESH	57702	46780	2871
33	UTTARAKHAND	7795	2013	1218
34	WEST BENGAL	3339	2938	2222
Grand Total		**269902**	**214300**	**64913**

Some GP may have more than 1 service points.

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