

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2145**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

**PROMOTION OF DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG SC/ST/OBC COMMUNITIES**

**2145. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:**

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

- (a) the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) established in Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) dominated areas under the Digital India programme;
- (b) the percentage of women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE) managing these CSCs;
- (c) the steps taken to promote digital literacy among SC/ST/OBC communities through the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA);
- (d) the number of SC/ST/OBC youth trained in IT skills under the Skill India programme; and
- (e) the measures adopted to address the digital divide in remote tribal areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (e) : Common Services Centres (CSCs) are set up by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and are an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India through CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up for this purpose.

The CSC initiative (i.e. CSC 2.0 project) aims to connect government to rural citizens by delivering services to citizens till Gram Panchayat level. Over 800 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.

Under project CSC 2.0, a total number of 2,78,246 CSCs have been set-up in the Scheduled Caste (SC) / Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated areas. Further, approximately 10% (~ 27,820 VLEs) women VLEs are managing CSCs in these SC/ST dominated areas.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated by MeitY in February, 2017 to ensure digital literacy to 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide.

A total number of 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country including youth. The PMGDISHA Scheme aimed at bridging the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population in the age group of 14 to 60 years. Further, marginalized sections of society such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) were covered under the said scheme. The community-wise training status is given below:

<b>Community</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>Trained</b>
Scheduled Castes	1,34,45,690	1,17,53,166
Scheduled Tribes	65,47,384	56,23,165
Other Backward Class	2,92,96,752	2,55,84,393

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme, several measures have been adopted to ensure inclusive skill development. These include establishing skill hubs and mobile training units, such as the Skill on Wheels initiative, to bring training directly to inaccessible regions.

Special attention is given to aspirational, backward, border, tribal districts under all PMKVY training programs. Special projects are also launched to cater to marginalized and vulnerable groups and address skilling needs in difficult geographies. These project-based short-term initiatives ensure training opportunities are extended to underserved regions and populations with the objective to bridge the digital divide and empower communities with relevant skills for better livelihoods.

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