

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 549
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF NDLM

549. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of individuals trained under the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) across States since its launch, year-wise;
- (b) the total number of Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and Authorized Ration Distributors trained in IT literacy under the scheme over the last five years, year-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the estimated timeline to achieve the goal of digital literacy for at least one member from every family;
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to meet this target; and
- (e) whether certain rural villages still lack internet facilities, if so, the details thereof including the number of such villages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The various steps taken by the Government to improve digital literacy among the urban and rural areas of the country are given below:

- i. During the years 2014 to 2016, Government of India implemented two schemes on providing digital literacy to the masses namely “National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)” and “Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)” with a cumulative target of 52.50 lakh persons (one person from every eligible household) across the country including rural India. Beneficiaries under the DISHA scheme also included field level government functionaries namely Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers in all the states across the country, the States/UTs -wise details is given as **Annexure-I**.

Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained, out of which around 42% candidates were from rural India. Both schemes have been closed now. The State/UT-wise achievement is given as **Annexure-II**.

- ii. In the year 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated to reach digital literacy in 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide. As against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country. The year-wise achievements of the Scheme are given below:

Year	Registered	Trained
2016-17	1,99,224	1,42,087
2017-18	1,13,02,007	84,14,860

2018-19	97,92,341	85,42,173
2019-20	1,42,85,919	1,28,25,128
2020-21	1,08,78,397	96,95,717
2021-22	1,11,13,212	97,87,886
2022-23	1,01,45,209	92,12,931
2023-24	58,55,654	53,20,934
Total	7,35,71,963	6,39,41,716

The State/UT-wise achievement details under the PMGDISHA scheme is given as **Annexure-III**.

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the 'Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey' (CAMS) in its 79th round (July, 2022 to June, 2023). As per the survey, among the persons aged 15-24 years, around 78.4 percent reported execution of skill of 'sending messages (e.g., e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g., documents, pictures, video)'. Further, about 94.2 percent of rural households and about 97.1 percent of urban households possess telephone and/or mobile phone. From the said report, given the significant rise in smart-phone usage, internet penetration, and digital engagement in rural areas, the objectives of the scheme were successfully achieved and hence the PMGDISHA scheme was officially concluded on March 31st, 2024.

(e): The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has informed that for providing high bandwidth capacity, mobile services, and broadband connectivity to remote & rural villages and islands in the country that currently lack coverage, several of steps & projects have been taken up with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)], Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Some of the projects have already been completed and many are under implementation. Details of the major projects are as follows:

- (i). BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages, including tribal areas. The infrastructure created under the 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 fiber, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. On 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet approved the Amended Bharat Net Program (ABP) under the Design, Built, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) model, for the up-gradation of existing network of Bharat Net Phase-I and Phase-II, creation of a network in the balance 42,000 GPs (approx.), operation and maintenance for 10 years and utilization. The connectivity to remaining non-GP villages (about 3.8 lakhs) is to be provided on a demand basis from their respective GPs. BSNL will have target of providing 1.50 crore FTTH connections to households in the next five years. BSNL has been nominated as the Project Management Agency. As of 13.01.2025; 2,14,323 GPs have been made service-ready under Bharat Net project in the country.
- (ii). For the provision of high-speed internet/data and Mobile Services (including 4G) in remote & rural areas of the country, various targeted schemes/projects have been implemented. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands), Scheme for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Schemes for providing mobile services in Aspirational Districts, Scheme for providing mobile services in the border villages and other priority areas, 4G Saturation scheme to

provide mobile coverage in all uncovered villages etc. The project for saturation of 4G mobile services for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas of the country is also under implementation at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr.

- (iii). Laying of submarine optical fibre cable in Aug-2020 between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2,312 Km) for providing high speed internet/data connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Laying of Submarine OFC connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (1869 km) (Total of 11 Islands; Kavaratti, Kalpeni, Agatti, Amini, Androth, Minicoy, Bangaram, Bitra, Chetlat, Kiltan, and Kadmath) in Jan-2024. Creation of 225 km OFC network in Lakshadweep Islands for provision of FTTH & other services. These optical fibre cable projects have facilitated faster roll out of mobile services (4G/5G) and other high-speed data services in the Islands.

Further, as of November 30th, 2024, out of 6,44,131 villages across the country, 6,17,770 villages have internet connectivity with 3G/4G mobile network coverage.

Annexure-I

State-wise counts of ASHA/Anganwadi/Ration Dealer candidates under DISHA			
State/ UT	Anganwadi	ASHA worker	Ration Dealer
Andhra Pradesh	8,137	794	131
Arunachal Pradesh	33	-	-
Assam	7,276	910	1,949
Bihar	7,964	4,015	1,148
Chandigarh	452	149	-
Chhattisgarh	5,175	8,221	1,938
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	4	-
Delhi	369	100	122
Goa	159	-	-
Gujarat	3,384	1,453	119
Haryana	3,266	4,063	212
Himachal Pradesh	4,195	240	44
Jammu & Kashmir	8,789	2,564	312
Jharkhand	2,910	709	533
Karnataka	2,629	1,915	595
Kerala	778	210	2
Madhya Pradesh	6,059	3,117	637
Maharashtra	18,268	8,223	1,360
Manipur	2,296	366	10
Nagaland	742	-	-
Odisha	2,859	1,537	317
Puducherry	415	-	-
Punjab	2,862	480	51
Rajasthan	2,084	1,851	233
Sikkim	1	14	-
Tamil Nadu	27,125	73	4
Telangana	5,377	3,321	513
Tripura	150	143	12
Uttarakhand	1,267	596	49
Uttar Pradesh	18,630	5,654	1,068
West Bengal	30,642	3,607	795
Total	1,74,294	54,329	12,154

Annexure-II

Table-I: State/UT-wise achievement made under NDLM			
		Candidates	
S.N.	State	Enrolled	Trained
1	Andaman & Nicobar Isl.	1,964	1,410
2	Andhra Pradesh	39,000	39,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,055	565
4	Assam	20,000	5,568
5	Bihar	78,000	78,000
6	Chandigarh	5,731	5,460
7	Chhattisgarh	26,000	26,000
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	412	317
9	Daman & Diu	2,488	2,132
10	Delhi	20,000	20,000
11	Goa	2,350	2,113
12	Gujarat	78,000	78,000
13	Haryana	26,000	26,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	6,666	6,666
15	Jammu & Kashmir	26,000	26,000
16	Jharkhand	26,000	26,000
17	Karnataka	60,000	60,000
18	Kerala	20,000	20,000
19	Lakshadweep	-	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	78,000	78,000
21	Maharashtra	78,000	78,000
22	Manipur	6,666	7,329
23	Meghalaya	107	-
24	Mizoram	4,684	538
25	Nagaland	4,760	5,412
26	Odisha	26,000	26,000
27	Puducherry	6,666	6,666
28	Punjab	26,000	26,000
29	Rajasthan	78,000	78,000
30	Sikkim	4,850	4,009
31	Tamil Nadu	78,000	78,000
32	Telangana	39,000	39,000
33	Tripura	6,666	6,666
34	Uttar Pradesh	78,000	78,000
35	Uttarakhand	26,000	26,000
36	West Bengal	78,000	78,000
	Total	10,59,065	10,38,851

Table-II: State/UT-wise achievement made under DISHA			
		Candidates	
S.N.	State	Enrolled	Trained
1	Andaman&NicobarIsl.	981	228
2	AndhraPradesh	3,02,133	2,93,133
3	ArunachalPradesh	11,885	2,935
4	Assam	1,87,111	60,998
5	Bihar	8,97,205	6,88,804
6	Chandigarh	29,411	17,387
7	Chhattisgarh	3,12,370	2,31,036
8	Dadra&Nagar Haveli	28	26
9	Daman&Diu	402	380
10	Delhi	1,34,373	1,20,633
11	Goa	2,610	2,277
12	Gujarat	5,54,923	4,94,955
13	Haryana	2,24,085	2,05,589
14	HimachalPradesh	62,675	55,941
15	Jammu &Kashmir	2,55,445	1,96,244
16	Jharkhand	2,25,278	2,07,349
17	Karnataka	6,55,070	4,95,362
18	Kerala	98,727	89,535
19	Lakshadweep	135	97
20	MadhyaPradesh	7,85,799	5,73,416
21	Maharashtra	8,11,791	6,14,597
22	Manipur	52,341	42,536
23	Meghalaya	72	36
24	Mizoram	15,209	11,928
25	Nagaland	25,924	12,119
26	Odisha	2,04,532	1,95,060
27	Puducherry	35,216	33,786
28	Punjab	2,77,453	2,11,780
29	Rajasthan	8,59,076	6,21,428
30	Sikkim	20,702	13,749
31	Tamil Nadu	4,08,310	3,94,403
32	Telangana	3,03,586	1,88,247
33	Tripura	99,502	75,209
34	Uttar Pradesh	9,55,441	7,04,617
35	Uttarakhand	2,11,770	1,82,334
36	WestBengal	9,05,833	7,31,851
Total		99,27,404	77,70,005

State/UT-wise achievement made under PMGDISHA Scheme

Sl. No.	State Name	Registered Candidates	Trained Candidates
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5,564	2,931
2	Andhra Pradesh	23,01,731	19,17,452
3	Arunachal Pradesh	14,949	11,615
4	Assam	27,21,585	23,60,195
5	Bihar	82,40,606	74,12,740
6	Chhattisgarh	24,86,455	21,37,064
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	20,522	18,029
8	Goa	58,569	53,784
9	Gujarat	30,31,310	26,83,286
10	Haryana	18,57,815	15,77,109
11	Himachal Pradesh	6,61,922	5,32,976
12	Jammu and Kashmir	8,70,451	7,06,991
13	Jharkhand	27,52,731	22,86,356
14	Karnataka	29,64,726	24,40,957
15	Kerala	1,77,165	1,18,132
16	Ladakh	24,785	22,122
17	Lakshadweep	142	35
18	Madhya Pradesh	56,92,467	50,69,449
19	Maharashtra	61,23,970	53,23,817
20	Manipur	28,397	18,286
21	Meghalaya	1,52,783	1,06,063
22	Mizoram	30,317	23,125
23	Nagaland	11,990	8,968
24	Odisha	36,16,441	30,86,143
25	Puducherry	22,079	15,801
26	Punjab	17,46,448	15,14,820
27	Rajasthan	45,06,184	39,70,690
28	Sikkim	27,035	23,122
29	Tamil Nadu	17,04,537	14,07,880
30	Telangana	14,56,226	12,10,448
31	Tripura	3,25,000	2,64,186
32	Uttar Pradesh	1,63,14,369	1,45,48,273
33	Uttarakhand	7,85,978	6,73,306
34	West Bengal	28,36,714	23,95,565
Total		7,35,71,963	6,39,41,716

***Chandigarh and Delhi are in urban agglomeration, hence not covered under the scheme.**
