

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 618**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.07.2017

**IT IN RURAL AREAS**

**618 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:**

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

- (a) the major efforts taken in the last three years to take information technology to the rural areas of the country;
- (b) the details of funds that have been allocated to achieve this said target;
- (c) the percentage of rural areas covered by IT services;
- (d) the changes that have been brought about in the schemes under the Ministry in the last three years to take internet to the remote areas of the country; and
- (e) the details of rural areas of the country which have been penetrated by internet so far ?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Following are the major efforts made by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the last three years to take information technology to the rural areas of the country:

**(i) Common Services Centres (CSCs):** CSCs are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneurs called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and provide eServices to rural citizens. CSCs deliver various Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, Educational services, Skill development services etc. to citizens.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India is establishing CSCs in about 2.5 lakhs of Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country (with at least one CSC in each GP). For this, MeitY approved a project- "CSC 2.0", in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme with an outlay of Rs. 475.11Crores which is to be implemented over a period of **four years**. M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a CSC Special Purpose Vehicle was engaged as the implementing agency for the project with active support and participation by the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Nodal Department(s), State Designated Agencies (SDAs), and, the District e-Governance Societies (DeGS).

Till **June, 2017**, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, among which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, among which, 1,63,226 are at GP level.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Target CSCs at Gram Panchayat (GP) level</b> | <b>2,50,000 (approx.)</b> |
|---|---------------------------|

|   | <b>Registered</b>                 | <b>Functional</b>                 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CSCs at Gram Panchayat (GP) level (A)   | <b>1,96,922</b> (at 1,32,514 GPs) | <b>1,63,226</b> (at 1,22,369 GPs) |
| CSCs other than GP, including Urban (B) | <b>1,03,852</b>                   | <b>97,845</b>                     |
| <b>Total CSCs including GP (A+B)</b>    | <b>3,00,774</b>                   | <b>2,61,071</b>                   |

The State/UT-wise CSC roll out status is given in **Annexure-I**.

**(ii) National Information Infrastructure (NII):**

A pilot on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).

(b): Details of the funds that have been allocated to achieve this said target are indicated below:

**CSC 2.0:**

Approved outlay = Rs. 475.11 crores, Released till date = Rs. 145 crores

**National Information Infrastructure (NII):**

Approved outlay = Rs. 45.84 crores, Released till date = Rs. 45.84 crores

(c): Coverage of IT services in rural areas is detailed below:

**(i) Through Common Services Centres (CSCs):**

Various types of citizen centric eServices can be delivered through national level integrated platform of CSC-Digital Seva once State/UT level service access portals are integrated with Digital Seva portal. Number of services in national CSC portal (Digital Seva) was increased from 32 to 170 during last 3 years. Out of the total target of around 2.5 lakhs of Gram Panchayats (GPs) to be covered through CSCs under the ongoing CSC 2.0 project within 4 years (by August, 2019) for delivery of citizen centric eServices, more than 1.33 lakhs GPs (more than 53%) have been covered with around 1.97 lakhs of CSCs for delivery of eServices to citizens till June, 2017.

(d) and (e): Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communication.

DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme to establish network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakhs) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. The BharatNet project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by November 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakhs GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. Under third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the said project (phase-I), 2,38,489 KMs of pipeline has been laid in 1,06,276 GPs, 2.20 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,152 GPs and 23,147 GPs have been connected so far till 09-07-2017. The detailed status of BharatNet project is given in **Annexure-II**.

Apart from that, the CSC Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) launched an initiative called- **Wi-Fi Choupal for 5,000 Gram Panchayat (GP)**, a rural Wi-Fi service initiative in financial year 2016-17 at the behest of Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 cr. Wi-Fi Choupal project has been launched to provide Wi-Fi Internet access in rural India through CSCs. As on date, Wi-Fi Infrastructure has been deployed in 2500 GPs across 9 States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka) and 2 Union Territories (Chandigarh and Puducherry). The activation of the internet service has been done at 650 GP locations.

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**ANNEXURE – I**

| STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017 |                   |                            |                                     |                                    |  |   |  |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| S. No.  | State             | No. of Gram Panchayat (GP) | No. of CSCs Registered including GP | No. of CSCs Registered at GP level | No. of GPs covered with Registered CSC | Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP | Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level |
|   |                   | 1                          | 2                                   | 3                                  | 3.1                                    | 4   | 5  |
| 1   | Andhra Pradesh    | 12833                      | 5488                                | 3475                               | 3475                                   | 5212                                      | 3119                                     |
| 2   | Arunachal Pradesh | 1779                       | 115                                 | 54                                 | 54                                     | 54  | 44                                       |
| 3   | Assam             | 2196                       | 2735                                | 2246                               | 2196                                   | 2213                                      | 1559                                     |
| 4   | Bihar             | 8463                       | 22380                               | 17541                              | 8463                                   | 19090                                     | 11960                                    |
| 5   | Chhattisgarh      | 9734                       | 11929                               | 8410                               | 8410                                   | 11175                                     | 7940                                     |
| 6   | Goa               | 189                        | 54                                  | 37                                 | 37                                     | 32  | 30                                       |
| 7   | Gujarat           | 13735                      | 18062                               | 14845                              | 13735                                  | 16805                                     | 13885                                    |
| 8   | Haryana           | 6155                       | 8724                                | 5834                               | 5834                                   | 7900                                      | 4923                                     |
| 9   | Himachal Pradesh  | 3243                       | 2624                                | 2269                               | 2269                                   | 2552                                      | 1952                                     |
| 10  | Jammu & Kashmir   | 4128                       | 2123                                | 1039                               | 1039                                   | 1727                                      | 900                                      |
| 11  | Jharkhand         | 4423                       | 9799                                | 7445                               | 4423                                   | 9014                                      | 5295                                     |
| 12  | Karnataka         | 5628                       | 6564                                | 2665                               | 2665                                   | 4963                                      | 2333                                     |
| 13  | Kerala            | 979                        | 2676                                | 1969                               | 979                                    | 2119                                      | 1111                                     |
| 14  | Madhya Pradesh    | 23012                      | 19446                               | 13175                              | 13175                                  | 16194                                     | 11873                                    |
| 15  | Maharashtra       | 27920                      | 31066                               | 19464                              | 19464                                  | 25324                                     | 17788                                    |
| 16  | Manipur           | 165                        | 646                                 | 256                                | 165                                    | 554                                       | 207                                      |
| 17  | Meghalaya         | 1463                       | 262                                 | 193                                | 193                                    | 198                                       | 74                                       |
| 18  | Mizoram           | 776                        | 376                                 | 316                                | 316                                    | 316                                       | 176                                      |
| 19  | Nagaland          | 1123                       | 232                                 | 230                                | 230                                    | 220                                       | 138                                      |
| 20  | Odisha            | 6234                       | 8651                                | 6832                               | 6234                                   | 6545                                      | 5599                                     |
| 21  | Punjab            | 12800                      | 6261                                | 4282                               | 4282                                   | 5229                                      | 3464                                     |
| 22  | Rajasthan         | 9946                       | 30436                               | 15038                              | 9946                                   | 29814                                     | 14878                                    |
| 23  | Sikkim            | 165                        | 37                                  | 31                                 | 31                                     | 31  | 23                                       |
| 24  | Tamil Nadu        | 12618                      | 11069                               | 5773                               | 5773                                   | 7408                                      | 4646                                     |
| 25  | Telangana         | 8787                       | 5564                                | 3180                               | 3180                                   | 5043                                      | 2855                                     |
| 26  | Tripura           | 1038                       | 521                                 | 442                                | 442                                    | 366                                       | 322                                      |
| 27  | Uttar Pradesh     | 51914                      | 67054                               | 41675                              | 7555                                   | 58876                                     | 35804                                    |
| 28  | Uttarakhand       | 7555                       | 5594                                | 4441                               | 4441                                   | 4339                                      | 3853                                     |
| 29  | West Bengal       | 3351                       | 17527                               | 13584                              | 3351                                   | 15653                                     | 6330                                     |

| STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017 |                        |                            |                                     |                                    |  |   |  |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| S. No.  | State                  | No. of Gram Panchayat (GP) | No. of CSCs Registered including GP | No. of CSCs Registered at GP level | No. of GPs covered with Registered CSC | Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP | Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level |
|   |                        | 1                          | 2                                   | 3                                  | 3.1                                    | 4   | 5  |
|   | <b>State Total</b>     | <b>242352</b>              | <b>298015</b>                       | <b>196741</b>                      | <b>132357</b>                          | <b>258966</b>                             | <b>163081</b>                            |
|   | <b>Union Territory</b> |                            |                                     |                                    |  |   |  |
| 1   | Andaman & Nicobar      | 69                         | 49                                  | 26                                 | 26                                     | 42  | 20                                       |
| 2   | Chandigarh             | 17                         | 112                                 | 29                                 | 17                                     | 65  | 21                                       |
| 3   | Dadra & Nagar Haveli   | 11                         | 31                                  | 16                                 | 11                                     | 21  | 9  |
| 4   | Daman and Diu          | 14                         | 11                                  | 2                                  | 2                                      | 8   | 1  |
| 5   | Delhi                  | 0                          | 2361                                | 0                                  | 0                                      | 1854                                      | 0  |
| 6   | Lakshadweep            | 10                         | 3                                   | 3                                  | 3                                      | 2   | 2  |
| 7   | Puducherry             | 98                         | 192                                 | 105                                | 98                                     | 113                                       | 92                                       |
|   | <b>UT Total</b>        | <b>219</b>                 | <b>2759</b>                         | <b>181</b>                         | <b>157</b>                             | <b>2105</b>                               | <b>145</b>                               |
|   | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>     | <b>242571</b>              | <b>300774</b>                       | <b>196922</b>                      | <b>132514</b>                          | <b>261071</b>                             | <b>163226</b>                            |

#### Annexure-II

| STATUS OF BHARATNET AS ON 09.07.2017 |  |                             |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| S.N.                                 | Description of Work                                | Status                      |
| 1.                                   | OFC Pipe laid                                      | 2,38,489 Kms (1,06,276 GPs) |
| 2.                                   | Optical Fibre laid                                 | 2,20,139 Kms (100,152 GPs)  |
| 3.                                   | Tenders Finalized                                  | 3324 Blocks / 1,24,412 GPs  |
| 4.                                   | Work Started*                                      | 3223 Blocks / 1,20,570 GPs  |
| 5.                                   | Current Weekly performance of Optical Fibre laying | 662Kms                      |
| 6.                                   | Current Weekly performance of OFC Pipe laying      | 889 Kms                     |
| 7.                                   | Optical Fibre Cable Delivered on site              | 2,55,499 Kms                |
| 8.                                   | GPON Integrated & Tested (Lit)                     | <b>23,147 GPs</b>           |

\* does not include the data of Andhra Pradesh

#### State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017

| S.No. | States/ UTs     | No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I | Pipe laid (kms.) | Cable laid (in kms) | No. of GPs where Pipe laid | No. of GPs where Cable laid | GPs connected |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1     | Assam           | 1533                                  | 3799             | 4158                | 1420                       | 1348                        | 354           |
| 2     | Bihar           | 5754                                  | 12199            | 12940               | 4967                       | 4742                        | 711           |
| 3     | Chhattisgarh    | 4104                                  | 10213            | 7873                | 3304                       | 3159                        | 1289          |
| 4.    | Haryana         | 6020                                  | 9776             | 10993               | 5907                       | 5801                        | 894           |
| 5.    | Jammu & Kashmir | 388                                   | 427              | 388                 | 214                        | 200                         | 0             |
| 6.    | Karnataka       | 6092                                  | 11784            | 12193               | 6026                       | 6010                        | 4826          |
| 7.    | Kerala          | 977                                   | 720              | 830                 | 1129                       | 1129                        | 1129          |

|     |                      |               |               |               |               |               |              |
|-----|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 8.  | Madhya Pradesh       | 12655         | 35904         | 31113         | 12026         | 11643         | 3599         |
| 9.  | Maharashtra          | 15301         | 26696         | 25129         | 12664         | 11843         | 1992         |
| 10. | Punjab               | 8049          | 9810          | 9153          | 6989          | 6745          | 637          |
| 11. | Rajasthan            | 8194          | 21069         | 20268         | 7114          | 7046          | 1725         |
| 12. | Uttar Pradesh        | 27974         | 48556         | 44678         | 25363         | 23409         | 2785         |
| 13. | Uttarakhand          | 1863          | 2792          | 2636          | 1503          | 1463          | 431          |
| 14. | West Bengal          | 2637          | 5175          | 4876          | 1822          | 1791          | 231          |
| 15. | Andaman & Nicobar    | 69            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 16. | Chandigarh           | 12            | 18            | 19            | 12            | 12            | 12           |
| 17. | Arunachal Pradesh    | 863           | 1558          | 656           | 609           | 220           | 0            |
| 18. | Nagaland             | 994           | 2614          | 1475          | 831           | 462           | 0            |
| 19. | Manipur              | 904           | 333           | 232           | 154           | 122           | 26           |
| 20. | Mizoram              | 763           | 735           | 438           | 125           | 73            | 0            |
| 21. | Tripura              | 1021          | 1688          | 1584          | 834           | 810           | 79           |
| 22. | Meghalaya            | 1208          | 1212          | 525           | 433           | 191           | 0            |
| 23. | Gujarat              | 6905          | 10518         | 9542          | 5046          | 4478          | 1018         |
| 24. | Puducherry           | 98            | 82            | 92            | 98            | 98            | 101          |
| 25. | Andhra Pradesh       | 1673          | 2627          | 766           | 520           | 283           | 0            |
| 26. | Telangana            | 2017          | 4538          | 4462          | 2038          | 2038          | 206          |
| 27. | Odisha               | 3860          | 8121          | 7970          | 3109          | 3108          | 517          |
| 28. | Jharkhand            | 2713          | 5012          | 4669          | 1864          | 1775          | 529          |
| 29. | Himachal Pradesh     | 252           | 513           | 481           | 155           | 153           | 56           |
| 30. | Daman & Diu          | 15            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 31. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 20            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 32. | Sikkim               | 52            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 33. | Lakshadweep          | 10            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 34. | Tamil Nadu           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 35. | Goa*                 | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            |
|     | <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>124127</b> | <b>238489</b> | <b>220139</b> | <b>106276</b> | <b>100152</b> | <b>23147</b> |

\*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre