

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3094**

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

VILLAGE RESOURCE CENTRES

3094. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has established Village Resource Centres with the aim of providing services such as tele-healthcare, tele-education, natural resources information, advisories related to agriculture, career guidance to rural students, skill development and vocational training, etc.;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of villages identified by the Government for this purpose;**
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any mechanism to analyse the outcome of this plan;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has also decided to expand the scheme all over the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG &
PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes Madam.**

(b) VRCs were set up to demonstrate the potential of satellite technology for development of rural areas. ISRO had established Village Resource Centres (VRCs) on a pilot scale, in association with selected NGOs, Trusts and State Government Departments. VRCs have provided various space technology enabled services such as tele-healthcare, tele-education, natural resources information, advisories related to agriculture career guidance to rural students, skill development and vocational training etc. 473 VRCs were established around the country.

(c), (d) & (e)

A study was conducted by Social Research Division, Development and Educational Communication Unit, ISRO through rapid sample survey during 2015 and it was observed that 70% of the participants found it useful. Department of Space is willing to consider if any proposals are received for VRCs, in the areas where other terrestrial connectivity are not available in the country.
