

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MeitY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5297
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.03.2018

NATIONAL DIGITAL LITERACY MISSION

**5297. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI E.T.MOHAMMED BASHEER:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of gram panchayats connected with WiFi/Hotspot enabled broadband connection;
- (b) the number of persons per family trained in digital literacy skills and the number that will be completed by 2020;
- (c) the number of persons including Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorized dealers who received IT training;
- (d) the status of Pradhan Mantri Digital Saksharta Abhiyan;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of implementing the scheme namely National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) or Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA); and
- (f) the target achieved for providing digital literacy up to December, 2017 and the steps Government proposes to take to expedite the process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI K J ALPHONS)

(a): Department of Telecommunication, M/o Communications has taken the following initiatives to provide WiFi / broadband connection to the gram panchayats:-

- I). The BharatNet project is aimed at providing broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country by 31.3.2019. Under this project, the last mile connectivity is envisaged by providing WiFi (2 Access Points per Grampanchayat) or any other suitable broadband technology, at all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Work of Phase-I for 1,00,000 GPs has been completed in December 2017. As on 18.03.2018, by laying 2,68,195 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 1,13,739 Gram Panchayats have been connected on OFC, out of which 1,04,813 GPs have been made Service Ready for providing broadband connectivity.

- II). Under Universal Service Obligation Fund's (USOF) scheme, WiFi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats are envisaged through CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV) using BharatNet infrastructure. WiFi Choupals have been installed in 5,145 Gram Panchayats out of which service delivery has commenced in 1833 Grampanchayats. Further under USOF's scheme for setting up public WiFi hotspots at BSNL's 25,000 telephone exchanges in rural areas, WiFi hotspots have been installed and service delivery has commenced at 2429 exchanges.
- III). BSNL has provided WiFi at 500 Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra and 220 Gram Panchayats in Karnataka under sponsorship by respective state government. Also BSNL has provided WiFi at 11 villages / Gram Panchayats through sponsorship by Hon'ble MPs & MLAs.

(b) to (f): Digital Literacy schemes implemented by Government of India and their status are as follows:-

- I). The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has implemented two schemes namely 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM) and 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (DISHA) during the year 2014 to 2016, with a total cumulative target of providing digital literacy to 52.5 Lakh beneficiaries(one person per household). Both the NDLM and DISHA schemes were implemented concurrently. Under the NDLM and DISHA schemes, a total of 85.33 lakh candidates were trained out of which 53.67 lakh candidates were duly certified.
- II). Based on the successful implementation of NDLM and DISHA Schemes, the Government has initiated a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (PMGDISHA) in February 2017. The scheme aims at ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. As on 23-03-2018, more than 1.10 crore candidates have been trained under PMGDISHA, out of which 55.57 lakh candidates have been duly certified.
- III). Under DISHA Scheme, a special focus was made to also include Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Anganwadi workers and Authorised Ration Dealers for imparting digital literacy. A total of 2,43,151 such candidates belonging to Anganwadi workers (1,75,556), ASHA(55,655) and Authorized Ration Dealers(11,940) were trained.
- IV). As on December 2017, a total of 85.33 lakh candidates under NDLM and DISHA schemes and 1.02 crore candidates under PMGDISHA were trained. In order to achieve the target under PMGDISHA, various efforts have been initiated which include State/district/block level workshops, awareness campaigns through Print and Electronic Media, setting up of a Toll-free Technical Support Centre, awareness through periodic newsletter and magazines, Posters, audio/video jingle, etc.
