

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1483
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.12.2018

BPO IN RURAL AREAS

1483. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the service sector based on information technology in the rural areas i.e. the rural BPO is not only promoting infrastructure development based on I.T. but also generating new employment opportunities in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the total number of BPOs functioning in the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan along with the jobs generated by them;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote BPOs in the rural areas; and
- (d) the details of the amount of grant which is given for setting up of BPO?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S S AHLUWALIA)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Government has launched two BPO promotion schemes, namely India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) with the aim to create employment opportunities through promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country particularly in small cities/towns including rural areas and by incentivizing setting up of BPO/ITeS operations. Since the inception of these schemes 150 BPO/ITeS units have started operations in small cities/towns across 25 States and 2 UTs of the country providing direct employment to over 23,000 persons. In the State of Rajasthan, 3 units have started operations for a total of 400 seats with initial employment to ~400 persons.

(c): In order to promote BPOs in small cities/towns including rural areas the metro cities with significant level of IT/ITeS activity viz Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, NCR, Mumbai and Pune have been excluded from IBPS. Further, Special incentives have been provided to the units setting up operations at other than State Capital. Also Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in coordination with State IT Departments has organised workshops, road shows, seminars etc for promoting dispersal of IT-ITeS/ BPOs in tier-II/III cities across the country.

To promote IT-ITeS/ BPO industry in small cities/towns including rural areas, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) an autonomous society of MeitY has 49 centres operational in Tier-II/III cities. In addition, 24 STPI centres have been approved in Tier-II/III cities which are at various stages of implementation.

(d): The IBPS and NEBPS reimburse 50% of capital and operational expenditures upto ₹1 lakh/seat as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The schemes also provide several special incentives like encouraging employment to women and physically disabled persons, promoting local entrepreneurs etc. within the cap of ₹ 1 lakh/seat. The disbursement of financial support under these schemes is directly linked with employment generation.
