GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1751
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 13.02.2019

E-GOVERNANCE

1751.   SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN:

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

  (a). whether the Government has prepared a National e-Governance plan and if so, the details thereof;
  (b). whether the Government has established State Wide Area Networks (SWANs), if so, the details thereof along with the issues faced by the Government for the establishment and effective functioning of the SWANs;
  (c). the details of the action taken by the Government to establish and monitor State Data Centres (SDCs);
  (d). whether the SWANs and SDCs in the State of Kerala are functioning efficiently and properly, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
  (e). whether the Government plans to extend assistance for establishment and maintenance of Common Service Centres(CSCs), if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon in Kerala; and
  (f). whether the Government has formulated a nation wide scheme for establishing Open Technology Centre (OTC) and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government had approved National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in 2006 with a vision to make all public services accessible to the common man in his locality through common services delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man. Originally 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) were taken up covering various sectors such as Income Tax (IT), Insurance, MCA21, Passport, Posts, Agriculture, e−District, CSC, PDS, Education, Health, e-Biz, e-Courts, and e-Procurement, etc. To support these services at infrastructure level, core ICT infrastructure consisting of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs), State Data Centres (SDCs), Common Services Centres (CSCs) and State Services Delivery Gateway (SSDG) have been set up in various States/UTs.

(b): The Government has approved the scheme for establishing State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) across the country, in March, 2005 to connect all State/UT Headquarters up to the

Block level via District/ sub-Divisional Headquarters, in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps per link. Presently, SWANs have been made operational in 33 States/UTs.

The States/UTs are utilizing the core infrastructure of SWAN for providing the closed user connectivity to various Government offices in the States/UTs. These offices access their applications through SWAN hosted at State Data Centres (SDCs). SWAN has been integrated with National Knowledge Network (NKN) in 29 States/UTs at SHQ level and 540 at the district level to provide the high bandwidth.

(c): The Government has established State Data Centre(SDC) in 28 States/UTs out of 33 SDC planned. An Empowered Committee (EC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary(IT) monitors the implementation and progress of SDC.

(d): SWAN and SDC in the state of Kerala have been made operational. The details are as follows:

- **SWAN Kerala:** The Kerala State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Project has established intranet connecting one State Head Quarter Point of Presence (PoP) with 16 District PoPs and 152 Block level PoPs. All the State departmental offices at the level of the State Head Quarter(SHQ), District Head Quarter(DHQ) and Block Head Quarter (BHQ) are connected to these PoPs horizontally creating a State Wide Area Network interconnecting all government entities. Some of the applications running on Kerala SWAN are from Police Dept, Transport Department, HMIS, Water Authority, Commercial tax dept.

- **SDC Kerala:** The Kerala SDC was made operational in December 2011. The current status of applications hosted on Kerala SDC is as follows:

  o   Co- location: 102 Applications
  o   Co-Hosted: 468 Applications
  o   Cloud: 203 Applications

(e): Government has initiated a project namely "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme, which aimed to set up of at least one CSC (internet enabled kiosk) at Gram Panchayat (GP) level to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. The project is a self sustainable service delivery model with effort towards optimum utilisation of ICT infrastructures created by the States/UTs. The number of functional CSCs (Urban & Rural) across the Country are 3,12,651 CSCs, out of which 2,12,718 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat. In the state of Kerala, total 3,722 CSCs are functional, out of which 2,081 are at GP level.

(f): Open Technology Centre(OTC) has been established in March 2007 at Chennai. The overall vision of OTC is to facilitate adoption of Open Technologies in e-Governance, strategic applications & services and also to offer various knowledge-based services & products effectively. Open Technology Centre functions as a National Knowledge Facility to provide a

"Synergy" to the overall components of Open Technology Initiatives such as Open Source Software, Open Standards, Open Hardware, Open Course-ware and Open Product Design that are being taken in various communities in Academics, Research & Development, Science & Technology, Industry and other organisations in India.