GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3526
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 22.03.2023

DIGITAL INDIA SCHEME

†3526. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:
      MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE:
      SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:
      SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
      SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
      SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

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

  (a) the status of implementation of 'Digital India' Scheme in the country State/UT-wise especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;
  (b) whether all the villages and towns in remote areas of the country have been connected with the basic communications/internet services;
  (c) if so, the details thereof along with the Parliamentary Constituency of Hugli, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Bhagalpur and Sonepat in this regard;
  (d) if not, the reasons along with the time by which it is likely to be connected; and
  (e) whether the Government is providing internet facilities to all the villages keeping online classes in view to educate the youth of the country particularly the youth from rural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): Government has launched the Digital India programme with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-based economy, by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. The programme is centred on three key vision areas, namely digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens. The overall goal is to ensure that digital technologies improve the life of every citizen, expand India's digital economy, and create investment and employment opportunities and digital technological capabilities in India.

Digital India has considerably bridged the distance between Government and citizens and enhanced trust on government and governance. It has also helped in the delivery of services directly to beneficiaries in a transparent and corruption-free manner. In the process, India has emerged as one of the pre-eminent nations of the world to use technology to transform the lives of its citizens. Details of some of the key initiatives under Digital India are at **Annexure-I.**

Several schemes/projects are being implemented under Digital India programme for creating awareness and providing digital facilities to citizens in all States and Union territories (UTs), including those in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Such digital facilities in the State of Uttar Pradesh include about 1.2 lakh functional Common Service Centres (CSCs), the imparting of health, education, financial inclusion awareness and skill development related services in one village in each of the 75 districts in the State under the Digital Village pilot project, 258 citizen-centric e-services under the e-District Mission

Mode project and certification of 1.09 crore persons under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) for functional digital literacy.

Similarly, such digital facilities in the State of Bihar include about54,356 functional CSCs, the imparting of health, education, financial inclusion awareness and skill development related services in one village in each of the 38 districts in the State under the Digital Village pilot project, 89 citizen-centric e-services under the e-District Mission Mode project and certification of 48.7 lakh persons under PMGDISHA for functional digital literacy.

In addition, citizens across the country, including in both the said States,have also been enabled to access e-services under various initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), DigiLocker, e-Hospital and MyGov.

(b) to (e): Basic communication / Internet connectivity is provided in the country by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers, including in the Parliamentary constituencies of Hugli, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Bhagalpur and Sonepat, through wireless mobile and fixed wire line connections. As per information furnished by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), based on data provided by TSPs, DoT's field units and State Governments, as of March 2022, out of 6,44,131 villages (as of November 2019, as per data of the Registrar General of India) in the country, around 6,05,230 villages are having mobile Internet connectivity. Government has taken various steps to promote Internet connectivity in both wireless and wire line modes. Details of some of the key initiatives undertaken by DoT for improving digital infrastructure and Internet penetration in villages and remote areas of the country, including in respect of the aforesaid Parliamentary constitutencies, are at **Annexure-II**.

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Details of some of the key initiatives under Digital India

S.No.	Initiative	Status prior to launch of Digital India programme	Current status	Focus
1.	Annual e-transactions reported at eTAAL (Electronic Transaction Aggregation and Analysis Layer)*	264 crore (FY2013-14)	10,786 crore (FY2021-22)	Digital services
2.	Unified Payment Interface (launched in 2016)*	—	4,597 crore transactions (FY2021-22)	Digital payment platform
3.	DigiLocker (launched in 2015)*	—	• Over 15 crore users • Over 560 crore issued documents (March 2023)	Paperless initiative
4.	Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) (launched in 2017)*	—	Over 21,800 services of over 300 Central/State Government departments (March 2023)	Mobile governance
5.	Jeevan Pramaan (launched in November 2014)	6.01 lakh certificates[***] (FY2014-15)	Over 7 crore certificates* (March 2023)	Digital life certificate
6.	Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) (launched in 2017)*	—	Over 5.83 crore persons trained (March 2023)	Digital skilling
7.	MyGov (launched in July 2014)*	—	3 crore MyGov Saathis (March 2023)	Citizen engagement
8.	Functional Common Services Centres**	0.84 lakh (May 2014)	5.23 lakh (January 2023)	Digital services
9.	e-Hospital (launched in 2014)	6 hospitals onboarded (2014)	Over 1,100 hospitals* onboarded (March 2023)	Digital health

Sources:

* Respective websites

** CSC e-Governance Services India Limited

Details of some of the key initiatives undertaken by the Department of Telecommunications for connecting basic communication / Internet services in villages and towns in remote areas of the country

1. BharatNet project, implemented in a phased manner, to provide broadband connectivity to all villages in the country

    Government of India is also implementing BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages of the country. A total number of 1,89,256 GPs,out of a total of 2,64,388GPs, have been made service-ready with broadband infrastructure. Details of GPs planned and service-ready under the project in the Parliamentary constituencies of Hugli, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Bhagalpur and Sonepat are as under:

Name of Constituency	No. of GPs planned (Phase-I+II)	No. of GPs service ready (Phase-I+II)	BharatNet saturation project (Phase-III)
Hugli	98	98	109
Sitamarhi	221	221	
Sheohar	207	207	
Bhagalpur	198	198	4
Sonepat	495	495	7

2. PM WANI framework to accelerate proliferation of Internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi access points across the country
3. 4G Saturation Scheme of the Universal Service Obligation Fund to cover 24,680 uncovered villages with 4G connectivity and upgrading 2G/3G connectivity in 6,279 villages to 4G connectivity
4. Scheme to provide 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
5. Scheme for providing 4G-based mobile service in 7,287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of five States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha
6. Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar Islands
7. Submarine optical fibre connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands
8. Mobile connectivity to cover uncovered villages and along National Highway 223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
9. Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LWE areas, including 96 mobile towers in the State of West Bengal, and are providing services. Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are approved across States affected by LWE.

10. Scheme for providing mobile connectivity in 354 villages of uncovered border areas, including Ladakh and Kargil Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other priority areas
11. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region, to provide mobile coverage in uncovered villages and along the National Highways

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