

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 307
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 27.11.2024

DIGITAL INDIA MISSION IN TAMIL NADU

**307 SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:
SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:**

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

- (a) the achievements of the Digital India Mission since its launch in 2015 along with the number of citizens benefitted from its services within Tamil Nadu, district-wise particularly Arani and Kallakurichi Constituency;
- (b) the current status of the Digital India infrastructure and the key initiatives launched thereunder including internet connectivity, digital literacy programs and e-governance services in rural and remote areas;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to address the challenges of digital divide, especially in terms of providing affordable internet access and promoting digital literacy in rural and underserved regions;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessments on the effectiveness and impact of the Digital India Mission and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds allocated to the Digital India Mission so far including current financial year within Tamil Nadu along with its as on date utilization for its various components; and
- (f) whether the Government has any plans to expand or enhance the scope of the mission in the coming years and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) and (b): The Digital India 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 the 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.

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 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Such digital facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu include:

- a) about 19,934 functional Common Service Centres (CSCs)
- b) certification of 10.55 lakh persons under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) for functional digital literacy

District-wise functional CSCs and number of candidates certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu are at Annexure-I & Annexure-II respectively.

Several schemes/projects are being implemented under Digital India programme for strengthening of digital infrastructure including internet connectivity, to improve the digital literacy and e-governance services for providing digital facilities in rural and remote areas. Details of some of the key initiatives under Digital India are at Annexure-III.

In addition, citizens across the country, including state of Tamil Nadu, have also been enabled to access e-services under various initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), DigiLocker, e-Sign, e-Hospital, e-Sanjeevani, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Myscheme and MyGov, etc.

(c): To promote digital literacy, skills and awareness to bridge the digital divide in rural and underserved regions, and providing affordable internet access, following initiatives have been taken:

- (i) (During the years 2014 to 2016, the Government of India had implemented two Schemes for providing digital literacy to the masses namely “National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)” and “Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)” with accumulative target of 52.50 lakh persons (one person from every eligible household) across the country including rural India. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained, out of which around 42% of candidates were from rural India. Both schemes have been closed now.
- (ii) In the year 2017, the Government approved a Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India with a target to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. As on 31st March 2024, as against a total target of covering 6 crore beneficiaries, more than 7.35 crore candidates were enrolled and 6.39 crore were trained, out of which 4.78 crore candidates were certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme across the country. The training & certification under the PMGDISHA Scheme has been officially concluded on 31.03.2024.
- (iii) MeitY in collaboration with NASSCOM has initiated a programme titled FutureSkills PRIME. The programme is aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling of IT professionals in 10 new/emerging technologies which include Augmented/Virtual Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile, Cyber Security and Blockchain.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The objective of this Skill Certification scheme is to enable Indian youth to take up industry relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. As on 26th July 2024, around 19.31 lakh candidates have been trained and out of which 9.44 lakh candidates have been certified under the PMKVY Scheme.
- (v) For promoting digital education and facilitating students, teachers and parents across the country, DIKSHA platform has been implemented. The platform is free and open for use by anyone. As on date, 557.09 crore learning sessions have been imparted using DIKSHA. It has achieved 17.98 crore course enrolments and 14.38 crore course completions. As on date, 1.75 crore users are registered on DIKSHA platform.
- (vi) Basic communication / Internet connectivity is provided in the country by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers, through wireless mobile and fixed wire line connections. As per information furnished by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), based on data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field's unit as of September'2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,22,840 villages are covered with (2G/3G/4G) connectivity and 6,14,564 villages are covered with 4G Technology.
- (vii) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages, including tribal areas. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. On 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP), for providing connectivity to 2,64,554 GPs includes the existing GPs those are already Service Ready. As of October, 2024; 2,14,283 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country.
- (viii) Government of India had launched a redesigned and expanded Scheme for the year 2022-23 named as “Scheme for Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment 2022-23”. A total amount of Rs 3000 crores was earmarked for Part-V (Optical Fiber Cable) of the Scheme for Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment 2022-23. Funds can be used to extend

BharatNet to Villages from the GPs covered as at present for Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) on the OFC to Government Institutions (like School, Health Centre, Anganwadi, Police Station, Krishi Vikash Kendra, Post Office, ration Shop etc.), Private Institutions and Households from Bharat Net network.

(d): Under Digital India programme, evaluation of the impact of all major schemes is generally carried out through an independent third party, which is not involved in the implementation of the Scheme to ensure fair independent assessment. The impact assessment studies of Electronic Governance scheme under Digital India Programme was conducted through Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), Hyderabad in October, 2020. The study has brought out that Digital India is transforming citizen services by providing access to information driven through technology, integrating various systems and services between government and citizens, thereby empowering and enhancing citizen's social, environmental and economic values.

(e): Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers projects of various central Ministries/ Departments & States/UTs. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing Ministry/departments and budget details are being maintained by concerned Ministries/Departments & States/UTs. There are 8 sub-schemes under the Digital India programme. These sub-schemes are Central Sector Schemes, no

State/UT-wise allocation is made. Budget allocated and utilised by MeitY under Digital India programme is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (in ₹ crore)
2015-2016	1384.50
2016-2017	1176.38
2017-2018	1451.59
2018-2019	3328.54
2019-2020	3191.09
2020-2021	3030.54
2021-2022	4504.36
2022-2023	3863.13
2023-2024	4174.14
2024-2025	2829.38 (as on 18/11/2024)

(f): In August 2023, the Government approved the expansion/ extension of the Digital India programme with a total outlay of ₹ 14,903.25 crore during the period of the 15th Finance Commission i.e., 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Annexure-I

District-wise functional CSCs in the state of Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	District Name	ACTIVE CSCs
1	Ariyalur	372
2	Chengalpattu	267
3	Chennai	592
4	Coimbatore	690
5	Cuddalore	859
6	Dharmapuri	598
7	Dindigul	547
8	Erode	596
9	Kallakurichi	389
10	Kanchipuram	385
11	Kanniyakumari	836

12	Karur	346
13	Krishnagiri	600
14	Madurai	613
15	Mayiladuthurai	121
16	Nagapattinam	426
17	Namakkal	376
18	Perambalur	315
19	Pudukkottai	407
20	Ramanathapuram	670
21	Ranipet	250
22	Salem	1041
23	Sivaganga	453
24	Tenkasi	456
25	Thanjavur	644
26	The nilgiris	196
27	Theni	480
28	Thiruvallur	540
29	Thiruvarur	372
30	Tiruchirappalli	829
31	Tirunelveli	688
32	Tirupathur	268
33	Tiruppur	516
34	Tiruvannamalai*	695
35	Tuticorin	581
36	Vellore	482
37	Villupuram	650
38	Virudhunagar	788
	Total	19,934

*includes Arani constituency

District-wise status of Tamil Nadu state under the PMGDISHA Scheme:

Sl.No.	District Name	Registered Candidates	Trained Candidates	Certified Candidates
1.	Ariyalur	64,156	57,289	41,521
2.	Chennai	240	159	122
3.	Coimbatore	47,814	35,754	25,026
4.	Cuddalore	41,012	28,758	19,064
5.	Dharmapuri	77,289	64,813	49,392
6.	Dindigul	40,951	33,980	23,524
7.	Erode	42,479	35,604	28,212
8.	Kanchipuram	38,116	26,204	19,207
9.	Kanniyakumari	30,580	23,710	17,379
10.	Karur	41,929	36,663	25,691
11.	Krishnagiri	71,346	63,430	48,405
12.	Madurai	21,776	15,226	9,729
13.	Nagapattinam	36,584	26,814	17,858
14.	Namakkal	43,372	35,812	28,058
15.	Perambalur	47,162	43,402	30,964
16.	Pudukkottai	92,548	81,623	61,284
17.	Ramanathapuram	38,405	27,702	19,382
18.	Salem	80,404	73,193	58,153
19.	Sivaganga	72,036	58,065	48,961
20.	Thanjavur	61,175	52,646	34,869
21.	The Nilgiris	6,625	2,202	1,446
22.	Theni	20,819	14,783	10,195
23.	Thiruvallur	56,489	48,445	32,073
24.	Thiruvarur	48,957	35,015	23,866
25.	Tiruchirappalli	1,08,842	95,369	72,025
26.	Tirunelveli	50,015	38,889	27,719
27.	Tiruppur	31,576	25,148	18,399
28.	Tiruvannamalai*	1,62,506	1,50,730	1,34,955
29.	Tuticorin	15,992	10,782	6,900
30.	Vellore	47,167	32,172	22,856
31.	Villupuram**	1,14,547	95,151	70,931
32.	Virudhunagar	51,628	38,347	27,069
	Total	17,04,537	14,07,880	10,55,235

*includes Arani constituency

** includes Kallakurichi constituency

The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken under Digital India programme for strengthening of digital infrastructure including internet connectivity, to improve the digital literacy and e-governance services for providing digital facilities in rural and remote areas across the country are as follows:

- **Internet connectivity:** Basic communication / Internet connectivity is provided in the country by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers, through wireless mobile and fixed wire line connections. As per information furnished by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), based on data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom field's unit as of September'2024, out of 6,44,131 villages in the country (village data as per Registrar General of India), around 6,22,840 villages are covered with (2G/3G/4G) connectivity and 6,14,564 villages are covered with 4G Technology.
- **BharatNet:** BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages, including tribal areas. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. On 04.08.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP), for providing connectivity to 2,64,554 GPs includes the existing GPs those are already Service Ready. As of Oct-2024; 2,14,283 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country.
- **National Knowledge Network:** National Knowledge Network ('NKN') carries the digital-traffic of National/state Data Centres (NDCs/SDCs), State-Wide Area Networks (SWANs) and provides connectivity to various Digital India initiatives. It also carries digital-traffic of various G2G (Government to Government) and G2C (Government to Citizen) services. NKN also inter-connects all knowledge institutions across the country through high-speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. So far, 2024, 1,802 links to institutions had been commissioned and made operational under NKN. 522 NKN links have been connected to NIC district centers across India.
- **National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM):** During the years 2014 to 2016, the Government of India had implemented two Schemes for providing digital literacy to the masses namely "National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)" and "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)" with accumulative target of 52.50 lakh persons (one person from every eligible household) across the country including rural India. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained, out of which around 42% of candidates were from rural India. Both schemes have been closed now.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** In order to improve the digital literacy rate, especially in rural India, the Government of India implemented a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. As on 31st March 2024, as against a total target of covering 6 crore beneficiaries, more than 7.35 crore candidates were enrolled and 6.39 crore were trained, out of which 4.78 crore candidates were certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme across the country. The training & certification under the PMGDISHA Scheme has been officially concluded on 31.03.2024.
- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar is the world's largest digital identity programme that provides biometric and demographic-based unique digital identity; which can be authenticated anytime, from anywhere and also eliminates duplicate and fake identities. As on date, 138.64 Crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated.
- **Common Services Centres – CSCs** are offering government and business services in digital mode in rural areas through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). Over 800 services are being delivered through CSCs, including government services, financial services and

services related to Aadhaar, various social welfare schemes, education, tele-medicine, travel bookings, utility payments. So far, 5.91 lakh CSCs are functional across the country(rural + urban), out of which 4.69 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat(rural) level.

- **DigiLocker:** It is a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates digitally. It has facilitated more than 34.95 crore users and made available 776 crore issued documents. Several fintech companies, working on banking and financial sector, are using DigiLocker for easy on boarding of users.
- **Unified Mobile App for New-Age Governance (UMANG):** UMANG is unified platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services. Currently, 2,057 services from 207 Central/State/UT departments have been on-boarded on UMANG.
- **myScheme:** myScheme is a National Platform that aims to offer one-stop search and discovery of the Government schemes. The platform helps the citizens to find the right Government schemes for them. It also guides on how to apply for different Government schemes. So far, there are a total of 2,770 schemes published out of which Central government schemes are 520 whereas State/UT government schemes are 2,230.
- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI):** It is India's leading digital payment platform. In the month of October, 2024 alone more than 1,658 crore financial transactions were done using UPI. By making digital payment platform technology and device agnostic, UPI has contributed to financial inclusion up to the grassroot level.
- **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA):** It is the world's largest, most diverse school education platform. As on 22nd July 2024, 556.37 crore learning sessions have been imparted using DIKSHA. It has achieved 17.95 crore course enrolments and 14.37 crore course completions.
- **e-Sign:** e-Sign service facilitates instant signing of forms/documents online by citizens in a legally acceptable form. The services are being leveraged by various applications using OTP based authentication services of UIDAI. More than 79.84 Crore e-Sign issued by all ESPs.
- **MyGov** – It is a citizen engagement platform that is developed to facilitate participatory governance. Presently, over 2.76+ crore users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform.
- **MeriPehchaan** – National Single Sign-on (NSSO) platform called MeriPehchaan has been launched in July 2022 to facilitate / provide citizens ease of access to government portals. Currently 12,068 services of various Ministries/States have been integrated with NSSO.
- **e-Hospital/ Online Registration System (ORS)** - e-Hospital application is the Hospital Management Information System for internal workflows and processes of hospitals. Currently, 694 Hospitals have been on-boarded on e-Hospital and ORS has been adopted by 720 hospitals across the country with over 74 lakh appointments booked from ORS.
- **eSanjeevani** - National Telemedicine Service of India is a step towards digital health equity to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). eSanjeevani facilitates quick and easy access to doctors and medical specialists from your smartphones. Over 30.87 Crore patients at over 129,200 Health & Wellness Centers (as spokes) through 16,360+ hubs and over 660 online OPDs serviced by more than 225,000 doctors, medical specialists, super-specialists and health workers as telemedicine practitioners
- **CO-WIN** - It is an open platform for management of registration, appointment scheduling & managing vaccination certificates for Covid-19. It has registered 110 crore persons and has facilitated administration of 220 crore doses of vaccinations.
- **Jeevan Pramaan:** Jeevan Pramaan envisages to digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate for Pensioner. With this initiative, the pensioner is no more required to physically present himself or herself in front of disbursing agency or the certification authority. Over 960.88 lakh Digital Life certificates have been processed since 2014.
- **Open Government Data Platform**– To facilitate data sharing and promote innovation over nonpersonal data, Open Government Data platform has been developed. More than

5.04 lakh datasets across 12,434+ catalogues are published. The platform has facilitated 104.90 lakh downloads.
