

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3761**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 18.12.2024

**DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE IN MAHARASHTRA**

**3761. DR. PRASHANT YADAORAO PADOLE:**

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

- (a) the manner in which the Ministry collaborates with local Governments and agencies in Maharashtra to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Digital India initiative; and
- (b) the measures in place to address concerns or controversies regarding digital inclusion and infrastructure development in rural and underserved areas?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has played a pivotal role in collaborating with local Governments and agencies across India, including the state of Maharashtra to ensure the timely and effective implementation of Digital India initiative. Following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure coordination among different agencies involved in this programme.

- Regular meeting and conference/ workshops with States and UTs especially with the State Information Technology (IT) Departments.
- Inter-ministerial meetings to create synergy and collaboration.
- Departments regular meetings and workshops with Industries
- Close monitoring of various initiatives under Digital India.

Further, MeitY actively works with State Governments for development of technology & entrepreneurship in various Tier-2 & Tier-3 towns of India led by organizations like Software Technology Park of India(STPI) & National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). Further, National Informatics Centre (NIC), an attached office of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has its State Centres at State level and District level all over India. These State and District Centres continuously guide and assist various State & District level Government Offices in developing and implementing various ICT applications.

(b): Government has taken several steps to bridge digital divide which range from providing meaningful connectivity to citizen to providing necessary digital infrastructure and digital literacy to the citizen. Over 94 crore citizens are connected through internet. Some of the key initiatives taken by Government are as follows:

- (i). 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, including Maharashtra. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country.
- (ii). 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. As on October, 2024, 5.84 lakh CSCs are functional across the country(rural + urban), out of which 4.63 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat (rural) level.

- (iii). BharatNet project, one of the biggest rural telecom projects of the world, is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications, in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Villages with broadband. As of Oct-2024; 2,14,283 GPs have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country.
- (iv). In addition, citizens across the country, have also been enabled to access e-services under various initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), Myscheme, DigiLocker, e-Hospital and MyGov, etc.

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