

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 461
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 23.07.2025

COMMON SERVICE CENTRES IN SC/ST AREAS

461. SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) established in SC/ST dominated areas under the Digital India Programme;
- (b) the percentage of women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) managing these CSCs;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote digital literacy among Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes communities through the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA);
- (d) the number of SC/ST/OBC youth trained in IT skills under the Skill India Programme; and
- (e) the measures adopted to address the digital divide in remote tribal areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Government of India launched a project to set up Common Services Centres (CSCs) to provide citizen centric services. Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) are empowered to set up CSCs.

As on date, a total of 2.92 Lakh CSCs have been set-up in the Scheduled Caste (SC) / Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated areas. Further, approximately 10% CSCs in these SC/ST dominated areas are being managed by women.

Government launched Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) in 2017 to ensure digital literacy. Against the target to train 6 Cr individuals, a total of 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country.

It was ensured that marginalized sections of society such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) were specifically covered under the scheme. More than 1.17 Cr individuals belonging to ST community, more than 56 Lakh people belonging to SC community and more than 2.55 Cr individuals belonging to OBC community were trained.

Under Skill India Programme, more than 2.29 Lakh individuals belonging to OBC community candidates, more than 89 thousand SC candidates and more than 38 thousand ST candidates have been trained.

Under BharatNet program, more than 2.14 Lakh gram panchayat have been made service ready with hi-speed broadband. Under various schemes, 4G connectivity is being expanded to 40 thousand (approx.) villages.
