

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 523
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2026

SMART GRAM PANCHAYAT PILOT PROJECT

523. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of **PANCHAYATI RAJ** be pleased to State:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the Smart Gram Panchayat pilot project and setup public Wi-Fi hotspots under the PM-WANI scheme in the sugarcane-belt villages of Muzaffarnagar and Shamli;
- (b) whether the Panchayat Secretariats in Muzaffarnagar are likely to be developed as special business incubation centres to promote agriculture-based small industries in rural areas under the Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan;
- (c) whether the Panchayat-level Samarthya Portal has now been made mandatory in Muzaffarnagar following the implementation of the Ownership of Property Scheme with a view to increasing the income of Gram Panchayats; and
- (d) the current physical progress and the per-unit budget allocation for establishment of digital libraries and high-speed internet connectivity in the Gram Panchayats of Muzaffarnagar by 30 January 2026?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

- (a) No such proposal is under consideration.
- (b) The Revamped Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan (RGSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity, governance capabilities and leadership competencies of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under the Revamped RGSA, support is provided to States and Union Territories under specified components to enable Panchayats to function more effectively as institutions of local self-government. At present, there is no provision under the scheme for development of Panchayat Secretariats as special business incubation centres, including in Muzaffarnagar district.
- (c) No sir, the Ministry has not made the Samarth Portal mandatory across the country, including in Muzaffarnagar. The adoption and use of the portal for capturing various categories of tax and non-tax revenues under Own Source of Revenue (OSR) is within the purview of the State Government, in accordance with its policies and requirements.

(d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, for setting up digital libraries in Gram Panchayats, including those in Muzaffarnagar district, an amount of ₹4 lakh per unit is being provided for creation of basic digital infrastructure such as computing equipment and audio-visual facilities. Establishment of digital libraries has been planned in 80 Gram Panchayats of Muzaffarnagar district, for which an amount of ₹3.20 crore has been allocated.

Further, the provision of last-mile digital connectivity to Gram Panchayats under the BharatNetprogramme is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. Under the BharatNet project, as on 30.01.2026, 421 Gram Panchayats in Muzaffarnagar district have been made service-ready.
