

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*43**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.07.2016

**DIGITAL GOVERNANCE**

**\*43. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state: -

- (a) whether adequate measures have been taken by the Government to achieve the goals of digital transparent and good governance and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to launch new IT products and technologies so as to strengthen the existing ones and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to improve the telecom connectivity to villages so as to achieve the goal of digital and transparent governance?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO \*43 FOR 20.07.2016 REGARDING DIGITAL GOVERNANCE**

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(a): Yes, Sir. Digital Technologies act as catalyst in bringing good governance by ensuring transparency, accountability, efficiency and integrity in governance. Government of India has undertaken various measures to digitally transform our nation and create opportunities for all citizens by harnessing digital technologies and services. Further, Digital Governance bridges the gap between digital have and have nots and brings in great thrust to promote inclusive growth including electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities.

The digital footprint has gone up through Aadhaar seeding and DBT. Aadhaar enrolment has increased to 103 crores in July 2016 as against 73 crores in Dec 2014. The Government is keenly pursuing JAM (Jandhan – Aadhaar – Mobile) for financial inclusion. The broadband subscribers have increased to 15.11 crore in April 2016 from 8.57 crore in Dec 2014. e-Commerce has increased to more than USD 24.63 Billion by June 2016 as against USD 13.5 Billion in Dec 2014. In the field of Electronics Manufacturing, investment proposals of Rs 1.20 lakh crores involving 179 units in June 2016 as against Rs 17390 crores involving 53 units in Dec 2014.

The e-Governance service transactions have increased to 62.5 crore per month in 2016 as against 29.4 crores per month in 2014. Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) was launched in August 2014 in which 98.26 lakh candidates enrolled, 72.92 lakh trained and 33.15 lakh certified. Significant increase in interest in start ups in cutting edge areas of IT and Electronics including IoT, Data analytics, telemedicine e-education etc. has been observed. Nearly 1000 start ups have been established in last year. e-Visa has been implemented resulting in significant growth in tourist inflow. The citizen participation has increased multiple times through citizen engagement programs like MyGov. The governments services are being delivered at the doorstep of citizens through 2.23 lakh Digital Seva Kendras (Common Services Centres – CSC) while increasing transparency, efficiency and reliability.

Under the Digital India programme, “e-Kranti” is being implemented, which envisions making all government services accessible to the common man, through Common Service Delivery outlets such as Digital Seva Kendras. Under e-Kranti, Mission Mode Projects covering wide domains including Health, Education, Passport Seva, Trade, Income Tax, Excise & Customs, Corporate Affairs, India Post, e-Police, Land Records, e-courts etc. are being implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT governments.

Major Schemes / initiatives taken so far:

- **Agriculture:** The major services of Agriculture MMP include Pesticide registration, Display on the Web of Seed Testing Results, Prices and arrival details, GIS based interface for price & arrival details, District level Agro-met advisories, Information on pesticides, Information on fertilizers/seeds, etc.
- **Land Records** – Major services include real-time availability of land records, issuance of Record of Rights alongwith cadastral maps, issuance of certified copy of deed, issuance of non-encumbrance certificate, payment of stamp duties etc. 26 States have computerized their land records and providing computerized copies of Records of Rights on demand. These states have also placed their land records data in public domain.

- **E-Mandi – Government has launched** e-mandi portal to make procurement of agricultural products smoother and provide competitive remuneration, especially for small and marginal farmers.
- **School Education Mission Mode Project:** The MMP is focused on Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary education. It will be a driving force for implementation of National Policy on ICT in School Education.
- **Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA):** Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) was launched in August 2014 in which 98.26 lakh candidates enrolled, 72.92 lakh trained and 33.15 lakh certified.
- **National Knowledge Network (NKN):** A multi-gigabit pan-India network for providing a unified high speed network backbone for all knowledge related institutions in the country. Currently, 1586 institutes are connected to NKN.
- **Digital Locker:** e-Locker is an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. Currently, 20.02 lakh DigiLocker Accounts have been opened.
- **Central Excise and Customs:** Facilities trade and industry by streamlining and simplifying customs and excise processes and to create a climate for voluntary compliance.
- **MCA 21:** The major services delivered through MCA21 include viewing of public records, issue of certified copy of documents, change in registered office, change in director(s), annual filings, application for change of name of a company, incorporation of a company and name allocation to a new company.
- **Passport Seva:** Project focuses on reforming Passport services in India through simple, efficient and transparent processes from processing of Passport to delivery of services.
- **E-Tourist Visa –**Tourists can apply visa online, pay visa fee online and receive **E-Tourist Visa** online. Around 8.45 lakh **E-Tourist Visas** have been issued since Nov, 2015.
- **e-Courts:** The services delivered through the e-Courts MMP inter alia include Automated case filing, Automated registration of case, Automated workflow for court, Generation of automated cause list, Judicial service centers in all Courts, Automation of Case Management System, allocation of cases, etc.
- **Common Services Centers – CSC 2.0:** The CSC aims for establishing at least one CSC in each of 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat (GP) level under Digital India Programme to deliver various G2C, B2C and B2B services online. 2,23,307 CSCs' have already been setup, of these 1,22,793 are at Gram Panchayat level.
- **e-District:** e-District services have been launched in 621 districts of the country, which delivers various types eGov services at districts.
- **State Data Centers (SDCs):** ICT infrastructure in states to consolidate infrastructure, applications and services to provide efficient electronic delivery of G2G, G2C and G2B services. 25 SDCs have been made operational.
- **State Wide Area Networks (SWANs):** To connect government offices / institutions at all State/UT Headquarters up to the Block level via District/ sub-Divisional Headquarters, in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps per link. Till date, SWANs in 34 states have been made operational. 30 states/UTs are utilizing more than 60% of bandwidth of the existing link capacity.
- **GI Cloud (MeghRaj):** To utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing. National Cloud has been set up as a state-of-the-art secured government Cloud to provide services over the ICT Infrastructure to the government departments. More than 400 user Departments are already accessing services like Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS), Storage as a Service (StaaS) of National Cloud.

- **eTaal:** e-Taal provides quick view of the number of transactions performed by various e-Governance applications on a real time basis. The average monthly transactions are more than 62 crore.
- **Mobile Governance:** The Mobile Seva platform delivers Government services over mobile devices using mobile applications installed on the user's mobile handsets. About 2521 Government departments and agencies at central, state and local levels have been integrated with the Mobile Seva platform.
- **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform:** It exposes government data to citizens while increasing transparency in government function. Under OGD, 26,759 resources across 101 Departments have been published which have been viewed more than 70 lakh times.
- **e-Hospital:** - Online Registration System (ORS): It includes online appointment and registration by new patients, viewing of lab reports, checking the status of blood availability and integration with payment gateway (PayGov). 43 hospitals have been integrated.
- **Jeevan Pramaan:** Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners scheme known as Jeevan Pramaan envisages to digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate. With this initiative, the pensioner is no more required to physically present himself or herself in front of disbursing agency or the certification authority. Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners. 16.30 lakh pensioners registered for the scheme.
- **Aadhaar & DBT** – 103+ crore citizens enrolled. 27+ Crore Bank Account seeded with Aadhaar No. 74 Government Schemes are on DBT, where Rs. 1.2 lakh crores transferred through DBT. 36,500 crore cumulative saving have been done using DBT.
- **eSign framework:** This is an integrated service which facilitates issuing a Digital Signature Certificate and performing signing of requested document by authenticating the Aadhaar card holder. 3 agencies, namely e-Mudra, CDAC and nCODE have been empanelled as e-Sign service providers.
- **National Voters Services Portal (NVSP):** NVSP is a one-stop solution developed to assist voters and providing information related to elections, polling booths and electoral rolls.
- **Vikaspedia:** It is a multilingual collaborative content creation platform that promotes access and sharing of e-knowledge for empowerment of underserved communities. Vikaspedia facilitates societal empowerment through provision of relevant information in various domains including Agriculture, Education, Health, Social Welfare, Energy and e-Governance in 22 scheduled languages of the country, besides English.
- **Biometric Attendance System (BAS):** Aadhaar based biometric Authentication for attendance to ensure that the attendance of all the Government employees is visible in real time on the common attendance portal. Around 2 lakh employees across 639 organizations have registered on BAS.
- **Localization Projects Management Framework (LPMF):** To undertake surface localization of the user interface and static information on a given website and internal localization of online applications including linked databases. Currently, the LPMF supports 6 Indian languages (Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam and Punjabi).
- **MyGov:** MyGov aims to establish a link between Government and Citizens towards meeting the goal of good governance. MyGov encourages citizens as well as people abroad to participate in various activities i.e. 'Discuss', 'Do', 'Poll', 'Talk', 'Blog', etc. There are multiple theme-based discussions on MyGov where a wide range of people can share their thoughts and ideas. 34.8 lakh registered users have participated in 49 groups, 478 tasks, 587 discussion themes and 219 blogs.

(b): Several new initiatives have been taken up by the government such as:

- **Unified Mobile App for New-age Governance (UMANG):** UMANG (Unified Mobile App for new age Governance) is an initiative to build a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single point of access for government services through mobile. Through the application, citizens can access high impact pan India e-Gov services from the central Government, State Governments, local bodies and their agencies and, even those from private sector.
- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** To facilitate on line procurement of Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs. GeM will enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It will also provide the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction as well as demand aggregation to facilitate efficient procurement.
- **Rapid Assessment System (RAS):** RAS is a continuous feedback system for e-services delivered through various Digital India platforms and various e-Gov applications.
- **National Scholarships Portal (NSP):** The portal is a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. The process includes student registration, application, approval and disbursement. 76 schemes of 22 Ministries/Departments of the Government are being on-boarded on the portal.
- **NIC e-Mail:** The current E-mail infrastructure of NIC is being augmented to meet the requirement of providing e- mail services to 5 million Government users. The upgraded email infrastructure will enable the scaling up of the E-mail services of NIC with additional features, for all the employees of Government both at the Centre and State. This service will have the latest E-mail architecture, design, performance, and deployment features. This service would be configured in a manner to protect sensitive data with content filtering, virus protection, and encryption.
- **National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG):** GIS platform for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system for Departments. Currently, 8 applications across various domains are operational.

(c): Government is committed to provide telecom connectivity to villages in rural and remote areas of the country through various Schemes being implemented/planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The Schemes are as under:-

(i) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by December, 2018. A state-of-the-art network, future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks and with for 5G services and Internet of Things era with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. As on 09.07.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 54,023 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,25,642 km. Out of these, 7312 GPs have been tested with broadband connectivity.

(ii) 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. As on 11.7.2016, 2032 sites are functional.

(iii) On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER.

(iv) It is estimated that there are about 55,000 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is planned to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for providing mobile coverage to uncovered villages in Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands is in progress.

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