

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4314
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 26.03.2025

PMGDISHA IN TAMIL NADU

4314. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:

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

- (a) the distribution of the number of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) centres currently operational across the country including Tamil Nadu, village-wise;
- (b) the number of digital literacy training sessions conducted under PMGDISHA along with the measures that have been taken to ensure the smooth resumption of regular training at these centres since the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) the employment opportunities or skill-based benefits available to certified beneficiaries of the PMGDISHA scheme both at the National and Tamil Nadu levels; and
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any studies to assess the impact of PMGDISHA on digital literacy and employment generation particularly in rural areas of Tamil Nadu and if so, the findings thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated to reach digital literacy in 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide including the State of Tamil Nadu. The training & certification under the scheme was officially concluded on March 31st, 2024. The Scheme was implemented by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited through 4.39 Lakh Common Service Centres spread across 2.52 Lakh Gram Panchayats across the country. As against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country. To ensure equitable geographical coverage across the country, a Gram Panchayat centric approach was adopted under the scheme. Hence, the targets was assigned and monitored for each of the Gram Panchayats in the country and not at village level.

(b): The scheme continued during the COVID-19 pandemic in a graded fashion while adhering to the relaxation provided by the guidelines/directives issued by the respective Central/State/District Administration. The quality of training under PMGDISHA scheme were kept intact with the objectives across all training centres /CSC through the following measures:

- Training provided with standardized multimedia content in 22 Languages accessible in multimodal format for all candidates across all training centres / CSCs;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in-line with the Covid-19 protocols were created and shared with all Training Centres for training and examination;
- Virtual sessions and workshops were conducted with the Training Centres to motivate them to re-start their activities;
- Refresher trainings were provided to registered/ trained candidates, who were unable to appear for training and/or certification;
- A Chatbot was created with basic information on PMGDISHA portal which was made available in both in Hindi and English languages;
- Training Centres were encouraged to join groups on popular social media platforms and share relevant training material through these groups;

- PMGDISHA content was uploaded on the DigiShala channel so that candidates could refer to these on their own and become ready for registration and assessment after minor training/revision.

(c) and (d): The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the 'Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey' (CAMS) in its 79th round (July, 2022 to June, 2023). As per the survey, among the persons aged 15-24 years, around 78.4 percent reported execution of skill of 'sending messages (e.g., e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g., documents, pictures, video)'. Further, about 94.2 percent of rural households and about 97.1 percent of urban households possess telephone and/or mobile phone. From the said report, given the significant rise in smart-phone usage, internet penetration, and digital engagement in rural areas, the objectives of the scheme were successfully achieved and the scheme has since been concluded as on 31st March 2024.

Further, the impact analysis of the PMGDISHA scheme was carried out by three agencies namely IIT Delhi, Council for Social Development (CSD) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The latest impact assessment study of the PMGDISHA scheme was conducted by IIPA. The gist of the evaluation report is that the PMGDISHA is a unique scheme due to its large scale and the use of remotely proctored examinations. The training provided under PMGDISHA has had a significant impact on the adoption of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and other forms of digital media. It has benefited its participants by enabling their access to a wide range of information and services for various purposes, helping to reduce the overall digital divide in the country. The key findings of the report are as follows:

- 18% fund used in Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCSP), 12% for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and 11% for North-Eastern Region (NER) have made sure the empowerment of weaker sections.
- Women participation is very large and their inclusion at the rural level will open up the path for the learning of the whole family.
- More than 55% of respondents cited a direct benefit to their livelihoods after PMGDISHA training.
- Almost 50% respondents stated that PMGDISHA helped them get a better Job.
