

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:116

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

EXPANSION AND UPGRADATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

:-

(a) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the equal expansion and upgradation of the Information Technology in all the States of the country;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to provide special assistance to bring forward the under developed States in the said field; and

(c) if so, the proposals approved for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 alongwith the locations thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a), (b) and (c): Department of Information Technology (DIT) has taken following steps for the expansion and up gradation of IT in the States:

i) DIT through National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to the Central Government Departments, States, UTs and District Administrations in the country for Internet, e-mail, file transfer, database development, e-Governance applications development, hosting and access in a uniform manner. Special projects are taken up for speeding up ICT induction in backward states. Video Conferencing for backward states is an example. The infrastructure is upgraded on a continuous basis so as to provide NICNET services using latest technology.

ii) A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 MBPS up to the block level for has been approved by Government in March, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs.3334 crores with Central Assistance component of Rs.2005 crores covering capital and operating expenditure over a period of 5 years. Proposals from 17 states (as per Annexure) have been approved by the Empowered Committee and first installment of grant (20% of outlay) released.

iii) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) provides R&D technology transfer and IT solutions by way of high performance computing, education & training, language computing, e-governance in different parts of the country.

iv) Education and Research Network (ERNET) has provided nationwide connectivity in terrestrial and satellite network with point of presence located at the premiere educational and research institutions in major cities of the country.

v) 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) in 487 BHQs in eight North East States have been set up with a set of computers and Internet connection through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs). 60 CICs have also been set up in the State of Jammu & Kashmir(J& K).

vi) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up 46 centres in various states of the country including North East states like Arunachal pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim and J&K.

vii) DIT is working on a Plan to establish 100,000 Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country by the year 2007. Such Centres would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community. These CSCs would be promoted on a sustainable entrepreneur-based model supported by the Central and State Governments.