

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:299

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRES

Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

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- (a) whether the Government has introduced Community Information Centres (CIC) for common people in the rural areas of each State;
- (b) if so, the details of such Centres set up so far, State-wise;
- (c) if not, whether any target has been fixed for implementing the said scheme;
- (d) whether efforts are being made to complete the works for providing the benefits of Communication and Information Technology to the people through CIC; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 299 FOR 10.03. 2006 REGARDING `COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRES`

(a.), (b) and (c): No, Sir. Department of Information Technology (DIT) has implemented a scheme for setting up of 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in the 8 North Eastern States in August 2002. 113 CICs at block level are operational in Jammu & Kashmir. A project on setting up of 71 CICs in Government schools of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands has been approved.

CICs set up - Arunachal Pradesh (56), Assam (219), Manipur (33), Meghalaya (32), Mizoram (26), Nagaland (52), Tripura (29) , Sikkim (40), Jammu & Kashmir (113) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2). The government has prepared a draft framework to create an enabling environment with policy interventions and financial support, so that roll out of internet enabled Common Service Centres (CSCs), especially in rural areas of the country can take place at a faster pace. The government has also prepared a scheme for establishment of 100,000 CSCs for service delivery in rural areas. No specific time frame has been fixed for setting up these CSCs.

(d.) and (e): Significant efforts have been made to provide benefits of Communication and Information Technology to the local community. Basic services provided by CICs include Internet Access, E-mail, Printing, Data Entry, Word Processing and Training for the local populace on fundamentals of computers. In addition, several citizen-centric or Government to Citizen (G2C) services are delivered from the CICs. Services offered are in the five main categories viz. IT Education and Training, E-mail and Internet access, Information Dissemination, Citizen Centric applications, and Entertainment & News.