

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:12  
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006  
INTERNET FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS  
Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

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

:-

- (a) whether the computer and internet facility has been provided in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the names of the schemes launched by the Government so far to implement such programmes?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) and (c) : Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), a public sector under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), provides Internet Service throughout the country on local call basis. In order to promote proliferation of Internet in Rural areas, BSNL under its `Internet Dhabas` scheme, provides one free Internet Access Connection along with 25% discount on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges to the franchisees of Internet Dhabas in each of rural Block Head Quarters. As on December 31, 2005, a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various states in the country. In addition, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes:

# National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in the North Eastern states with the objective of providing Internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

# NIC, in collaboration with Maharashtra State Govt. has provided computers and Internet facility at 70 villages under Warana project in Kolhapur and Sangli districts.

# Under Vidya Vahini pilot project 140 Govt/ Govt.aided schools in the 7 districts across 6 States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra have been provided computer with Internet connection.

# Another e-Governance Scheme for development of Core infrastructure entitled `State Wide Area Network` (SWAN) was approved by the Government in March, 2005 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3334 crore for the entire country out of which estimated expenditure of Rs.2005 crore would be provided as Grant-in-Aid, to be expended over 5 years. This scheme would provide broadband connectivity to 6000 Blocks, Tahsil and District Headquarters which would facilitate creation of ICT based Common Services Centres in the villages within a radius of 10-15 kms. around the Block Hqrs. Under the Scheme, project proposals of 20 States were sanctioned and are now under various stages of implementation.