

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1510  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2006  
RURAL INTERNET CONNECTIVITY  
Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether some States have submitted proposals for setting up rural internet connectivity infrastructure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Union Government on the request forwarded by Kerala?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology(DIT) is facilitating establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) using 2 Mbps connectivity being provided through State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) under its National e-Governance Plan. Proposals from 20 States were received and approved so far.

(c): The proposal from Kerala for SWAN has been approved in March, 2005 for DIT share of Rs.78.70 crores.