

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1113

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006

EXPANSION AND UPGRADATION OF IT SECTOR

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

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- (a) The details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the expansion and upgradation of the Information Technology (IT) in all the States of the country particularly in rural areas ;
- (b) The estimated number of employment opportunities to be provided in the IT Sector ;
- (c) Whether the Government proposes to reconstitute the Central IT Committee in this regard ;
- (d) If so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereof ; and
- (e) If not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

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

(a) : For meeting the connectivity requirement for e-governance the entire country covering 29 States and 6 UTs, Government of India through the Department of Information Technology has approved the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme with an overall estimated outlay of Rs.3,334 crores. This would help each State to establish a closed user group Instance connecting all District Headquarters, State Development .Headquarters and Block/Taluka Hqs. with the State Capital with a minimum of 2mbps broadband capacity for each link. This would enable the States/UTs to increase their efficiency manifold in particularly in respect of delivery of Govt. to citizen services. So far, 24 States/UTs have availed of the SWAN Scheme and been accorded approvals for their individual SWAN Projects. Implementation of SWANs in these States/UTs are currently at different stages of execution.

The Government has also approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband and Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. The Scheme was approved in September, 2006. These centres would provide government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen.

Citizens would also be able to connect to the Internet through these centres. The Scheme has been approved a total cost of Rs.5742 crores over 4 years, of which the Government of India contribute is begged at Rs.856 crore and the State Governments share of support is Rs.793 crores. The balance resources would be mobilized from the private sector. The Scheme is to be implemented through a Public Private Partnership. CSC proposals for 11 States has been approved by the Empowered Committees on CSCs with an estimated total government contribution of Rs.877.66 crores including Central and States Govt. share.

(b) : The assessment of human resource requirement for the IT sector is a continuous process. Government of India alongwith Industry association like NASSCOM have been continuously looking at this sector's requirement from time to time.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) and (e): Do not arise.