

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007

INTERNET, E-MAIL AND COMPUTER FACILITIES

Barman Shri Ranen

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in the rural and tribal areas of the country particularly in West Bengal and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) and (b): The DIT (Department of Information Technology) had earlier taken up a Scheme and established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at the Block level in 8 States of the North East at a projected cost of Rs.242 crores, for establishing and running these CICs for 5 years, after which the CICs were to be managed by the State Governments concerned. A further 68 CICs were also established in the North East in 2005. Out of these a total of 45 CICs have also been set up in Sikkim.

Further, the Government has recently approved a Scheme for facilitating the establishment and running of 100,000 broad band Internet enabled Kiosks termed as Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country including West Bengal and Sikkim, for a period of four years. These centres would be established through a Public Private Partnership and it is envisaged that these centres would provide Government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. The detailed guidelines of the CSC Scheme are accessible at [www.mit.gov.in](http://www.mit.gov.in).

(c): Does not arise.