

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

OPENING OF COMMON SERVICE CENTRES

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the total amount of funds sanctioned and released for this purpose;
- (d) the services which will be provided by these Centres;
- (e) whether some States have been facing non-availability of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL's) connectivity to the Centres; and
- (f) if so, the corrective measures taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Under National e-Governance plan (NeGP) the Government has sanctioned the scheme of Common Service Centres (CSC) under which 1,00,000 Kiosks are being established in rural areas of all States. These Kiosks are equipped with Computers, connectivity and trained and incentivized manpower. These Centres provide public services along with facilities of Internet and E-mail. The Scheme is being implemented on Public Private Partnership model with Government of India providing only revenue viability gap funding. Till 31st October, 2010 about 85,000 CSCs have been established. The State-wise details of CSCs is given in the Annexure. The total approved cost of the scheme is Rs.1649 crores out of which Rs.531.29 crores has been released under Department of Information Technology (DIT) share.

(d): Various Government to Citizen, Business to Citizen and other social sector services are being provided by these Centres.

(e) and (f): Yes, Sir. In order to enable connectivity for all Common Services Centres, DIT has agreed to part funding of Rs.880 crores to the BSNL for provision of broad band connectivity to CSCs. So far BSNL has enabled connectivity for around 42000 CSCs. A working group on BSNL connectivity has been formed which regularly monitors the progress to expedite provision of broadband connectivity.