

Computer education in rural area

†975. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE :
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide at least one computer in each panchayat in the country to achieve the aim of providing computer education at rural level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the amount allocated to achieve the above target during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether the amount allocated for the said purpose is adequate; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to increase the allocation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (e) There is no approved scheme of Central Government for providing Computers to each Panchayat. No funds have been released during last three years to any States/UTs for computerization of village Panchayats by Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Position of India in UN-HDI, 2007

976. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Ministry has been drawn to the UN Human Development Index (HDI), 2007 which shows that India stagnates at the same position 134 on the Index as it held in 1994;
- (b) whether the Ministry has analysed the reasons underlining it;
- (c) if so, whether the primary fault lies with the delivery system for public goods and services; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure the centrality of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the delivery of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to rectify this?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (e) As per UN Human Development Index Report, 1997, India ranked 138 on HDI for 1994. This ranking for the country for 2007 as per the said Report for 2009 is 134.

(b) and (c) There can be several reasons for India's rank on HDI. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not undertaken any detailed study regarding the same.

(d) MoPR has taken several steps to ensure centrality of PRIs in the delivery of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which includes issuing:—

- (i) detailed advisory dated 19.1.2009 to Central Ministries and the States for delineating roles and responsibilities of PRIs;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) guidelines dated 9.4.2009 with regard to devolution of Panchayat Finances;
- (iii) guidelines dated 23.10.2009 with regard to manpower of Panchayats; and
- (iv) guidelines dated 1.12.2009 to States/UTs with regard to devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries to PRIs through Activity Mapping;

(All available on website : www.panchayat.nic.in.)

Besides, MoPR has regularly been inter-acting with Central Ministries as well as States in this regard.

Computerisation of Panchayats

977. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Expert Group on Information Technology Programmes in one of its recommendations has recommended computerisation of every Panchayat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by Government thereon; and
- (d) the number of Panchayats which have become computerised so far and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Keeping in view the strategic importance of computerization at the Gram Panchayat level, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) had constituted an Expert Group in June, 2007 to assess the current and future Information Technology (IT) programmes of the Ministry, to recommend most cost-effective technologies for reaching IT to the Gram Panchayats, the use of IT for effectively building capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions through distance learning and the cost implications of the recommendations. The major recommendations are:—

- Gram Panchayats and Block Panchayats need to be equipped with computers and associated infrastructure.
- Use of open technology which includes open standards, open source and other similar open initiatives as the basis for technology options.
- States should have autonomy in defining and developing their own application software to address States specific functionalists while at the same time development of application software for core common functions centrally.
- Multi-mode training interventions using Information and Communication Technology and satellite-based technologies should be adopted.

(c) Work relating to Information and Service Needs Assessment, Business Process Re-engineering and preparation of Detailed Project Report has been completed in 27 States/UTs. Software applications are under development and deployment.

(d) As per the information given by States/UTs, the number of Panchayats, computerized so far is given in the Statement (See below). As expenditure on computerization