

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India launched Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) in 2003-04 for 147 backward districts to remove barriers to growth, accelerate development process and improve the quality of life of the people in these districts. The scheme was later subsumed in Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) launched in 2006-07 and implemented by Ministry of Panchayati Raj/ Planning Commission. At present BRGF covers 250 backward districts in 27 States. The scheme has two components *i.e.* (i) the District Component; and (ii) Special Plans for Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa.

The District Component of the scheme focuses on :

- Filling critical infrastructure gaps and other development needs.
- Capacity building and professional support to promote participatory planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring at panchayat and municipality level to reflect local needs.
- Converging through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing developmental inflows into these districts.

(e) At the State level a High Powered Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary approves the District Development Plans and the Capacity Building Plans under BRGF. At the Central level, the District Component of BRGF is administered by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Special Plans for Bihar and KBK Districts of Orissa are administered by the Planning Commission.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

*42. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all villages in the country have been covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, specially in Bihar State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to achieve the target of this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

:(a) No, Sir. Gram Panchayats voluntarily participate in the scheme. At present, there are 4555

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in the country (as on 31.03.2010). Of these, 1072 PSSKs are operating in Bihar State. State/Circle-wise details of PSSKs in the country are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Panchayat Sanchar Sewa yojana (PSSKs) are opened only on initiation of proposals by duly elected Gram Panchayats subject further to fulfilment of stipulated norms. Reasons for non-availability of PSSKs in all the Panchayats is non-receipt of justified proposals and non-fulfilment of norms. Targets or time frame have not been fixed for opening of PSSKs in the remaining Gram Panchayats.

Statement

*State/Circle-wise Number of Panchayat Sanchar
Sewa Kendras in the country*

(As on 31-3-2010)

Sl. No.	Circles	Normal Area	Hilly Area	Tribal Area	Desert Area	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	85	0	2	0	87
2	Assam	164	4	5	0	173
3	Bihar	1072	0	0	0	1072
4	Chhattisgarh	100	0	118	0	218
5	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	6	1	5	2	14
6.1	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
6.2	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
7	Haryana	59	0	0	44	103
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	108	1	0	109

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Jammu & Kashmir	15	10	0	0	25
10	Jharkhand	140	0	121	0	261
11	Karnataka	10	1	0	0	11
12	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
12.1	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	194	0	26	0	220
14	Maharashtra	384	63	55	0	502
14.1	Goa	6	0	0	0	6
15	North East					
15.1	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	8	0	8
15.2	Manipur	14	2	0	0	16
15.3	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
15.4	Mizoram	8	0	0	0	8
15.5	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
15.6	Tripura	20	22	12	0	54
16	Orissa	169	4	31	0	204
17	Punjab	7	0	0	0	7
17.1	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
18	Rajasthan	44	0	2	20	66
19	Tamil Nadu	87	0	0	0	87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.1	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0
20	Uttarakhand	42	61	0	0	103
21	Uttar Pradesh	1162	0	32	0	1194
22	West Bengal	4	0	0	0	4
22.1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	0	2
22.2	Sikkim	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL		3794	277	418	66	4555

Strengthening of National Commission for Scheduled Castes

*43. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry for strengthening the National Commission for Scheduled Castes; and

(b) the reasons for not filling up the post of Chairman of SC Commission in spite of it remaining vacant for the last so many months?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) already enjoys constitutional status and its role and powers are spelt out in Art. 338 of the Constitution.

(b) The new Chairman of the Commission has assumed charge on 15.10.2010.

Metro rail in Jaipur

†*44. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the required criteria and sufficient number of passengers have been ensured before starting metro rail project in Jaipur;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.