

(b) by when the telephone facilities will be provided to all villages of Gujarat; and

(c) the measures taken for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The number of Tehsils, Village Panchayats and villages covered under telephone facilities by BSNL in Gujarat Telecom Circle are as follows:—

Location	Covered by BSNL (as on 30.11.2011)
Tehsils	226
Village Panchayats	13,486
Villages	16,932

Some of the uncovered villages are non-feasible and the rest are progressively covered by BSNL with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPT).

Promotion of IT in agriculture

2705. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Information Technology has been used by farmers in planning and decision making;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote usage of Information Technology in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) There are a number of current Information Technology related initiatives/schemes undertaken by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation which are aimed at providing information to the farmers on various activities in the agriculture value chain for helping them in planning and decision making in this field.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has developed 80 portals, applications and websites. The important portals include SeedNet, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation Network (DACNET), AGMARKNET (prices and arrivals in Mandis), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Automated Teller Machines (ATMS), NHM (National Horticulture Mission), and National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

Kisan Call Centres (KCC) are functioning from twenty five Centres. They aim to provide information to the farming community nationwide through toll free telephone lines (telephone No. 1800 180 1551) from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on all 7 days a week, to disseminate information.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Mission Mode Project — National e-Governance Plan — Agriculture (NeGP-A) in seven selected States under Phase-I which aims to disseminate information to the farmers on twelve identified cluster of Services, related to agriculture through various delivery channels including Common Service Centres, Internet Kiosk, SMSs and Kisan Call Centres. In order to generate awareness among masses, publicity of Kisan Call Centres (KCC) is being carried out through electronic media and through All India Radio.

Money Transfer Solutions

2706. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Post has tied-up with Money Gram International for Money Transfer Solutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which the implementation of the said ties will help the India Post customers; and

(d) the number of post offices in which such transfer facilities will be available, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Service was launched on 29th September, 2011 in 100 Post Offices located in Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu Circles. The same has been expanded to 400 more Post Offices spread in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh Circles *w.e.f.* 28th November, 2011. The salient features of International Money Transfer Services are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) India Post customers can receive remittance sent from abroad through the selected Post Offices, which are easily accessible.

(d) The above service is now available in 500 Post Offices located in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh Circles. The Circle-wise break-up is given in the Statement-II.