

**Implementation of rural business hub programme in Bihar**

239. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry's programme of Rural Business Hub has been implemented in Bihar State;

(b) if so, whether this programme has successfully helped in generating employment opportunities and eradicating rural poverty in Bihar; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):  
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As the scheme is demand based, no State wise allocation is made. This scheme is applicable to all the BRGF and North-Eastern Region districts. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj extends token financial support (not exceeding Rs. 25 lakh) for viable RBH projects and the balance project cost has to be converged through other Central/ State Government schemes/Financial Institutions/ Implementing Organizations etc.

In Bihar, only one project has been sanctioned to M/s Gramin Vikas Pratisthan in Paliganj Block of Patna district for Rural Business Hub (RBH) for promotion of Medicinal/Aromatic Plants. Under the RBH scheme, financial support has been given for setting up distillation plants for extraction of oil. Around 60 farmers have reportedly benefited from this particular project.

**E-Governance in Panchayats**

240. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the implementation of E-governance in panchayats under the National E-Governance Programme (NEGP);

(b) whether Government is aware that number of panchayats are not yet computerized;

(c) if so, the response of Government;

(d) the steps that are being taken by the Government to ensure effective implementation of E-Governance in panchayats; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):  
(a) e-Governance in Panchayats is sought to be achieved through the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) under which 11 Core Common Software applications are planned. These applications collectively constitute the Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES). Four of these applications namely PRIA Soft, PlanPlus, National Panchayat Portal and Local Governance Directory have been rolled out and are in public domain. These can be accessed at <http://Accountingonline.gov.in>, <http://planningonline.gov.in>, <http://panchayat.gov.in> and <http://panchayatdirectory.gov.in> respectively. Six more applications namely Area Profiler, Service Plus, Asset Directory, ActionSoft, Social Audit and Trainings Management were launched on 24th April, 2012 on the occasion of National Panchayat Day and are in the process of adoption by the States.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Project so far has not provided any funds for hardware including computers. However, the States have been advised to utilize available funds from other sources such as 13th Central Finance Commission grants, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), State Funds, etc. for procuring ICT infrastructure including computers at Panchayats.

(d) and (e) For effective implementation of the e-Governance Project, workshops/trainings are organised to demonstrate the applications to the State Govt. functionaries. Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also providing trained faculty to provide trainings on all applications. Consultants were provided to 25 States to initiate the rollout of the project. During 2011-12, Rs. 38.5 Crores were released to all States/UTs for setting up of Programme Management Units (PMUs) at States and District levels for adoption of PES applications. Furthermore, States are also incentivized to adopt the PES applications through the annual e-Panchayat Puraskars.

#### **Computerisation of functioning of gram panchayats**

241. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government so far as computerisation of the functioning of the Gram Panchayats is concerned;