

Scheme to bring IT to poor farmers

1556. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to bring Information Technology (IT) to poor farmers in their own languages to help them keep in tune with market, weather forecast and new techniques of farming; and

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard, including apps, distribution of such devices, cost and numbers, if not, the reasons for keeping a large segment out of IT and whether there is any plan to do so in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing a Mission Mode Project - National e-Governance Plan-Agriculture (NeGP-A) for helping farmers access information related to latest technology. This project has been approved at a total cost of ₹ 858.79 crore for implementation of this scheme over the entire country. 12 clusters of services have been identified for the project. Dissemination of information to the farmers has been aimed through various delivery channels including Common Service Centres, Web Portals, SMSs and Kisan Call Centres, Mobile Apps etc.

Web Portals: The following portals have been developed under NeGP-A such as:

- (i) Kisan Portal (www.mkisan.gov.in) to enable Officers, Scientists and Experts from all Organizations and Departments of the GoI and State Governments (including State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) all over the country for disseminating information (giving topical and seasonal advisories and providing services through SMSs to farmers in their local languages) on various agricultural activities to registered farmers. Around 11 Crore SMS are being sent by Ministry of Agriculture to the farmers. In the Financial Year 2014-15, number of e-Transactions for projects under Agriculture was 141.25 crores, which has increased to 161.88 crores in the Financial Year 2015-16.
- (ii) Farmers' Portal (www.farmer.gov.in) has been developed to serve as One Stop Shop for all the farmers for accessing information on agricultural activities.

Mobile Applications: As part of multiple channels of delivery of information to the farmers, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has launched the following mobile applications:

- (i) Kisan Suvidha
- (ii) Pusa Krishi
- (iii) Crop Insurance
- (iv) Agrimarket
- (v) Bhuwan Hail storm

Future network growth of Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor

1557. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether feasibility studies have been completed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, if so, the details thereof, including time-line for undertaking construction and expected time of completion;
- (b) whether the financial viability and operation cost of the train has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the future network growth of the corridor has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The joint feasibility study by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of India on Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor has been completed in July, 2015.

The salient features of feasibility report on Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor are:

- Total length of corridor - 508 kms.
- 12 stations between Mumbai and Sabarmati (Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati).
- The total journey time of 2.07 hrs for a fast train and of 2.58 hrs for trains stopping at each station.
- Total completion cost estimated at approximately ₹ 97,636 crore (including price escalation, Interest During Construction (IDC) and import duties).
- Project implementation time of approximately seven years from commencement of construction.

(b) According to the report the Internal Rate of Return of the project is estimated as 4% and Economic Internal Rate of Return as 11.8%.

(c) Yes, Sir.