- The National Scholarships Portal, a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process, have been implemented. 77 scholarship schemes from 16 Ministries/Departments have been registered.

(b) Various projects/schemes are being implemented under Digital India programme by Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and is at specific stage of implementation. Accordingly, funds have been allocated/released/utilised for a project/scheme.

(c) The services under e-Governance are being made available to all the citizens in rural areas/villages through Common Services Centres (CSCs). Currently, 2.23 lakh CSCs are operational across the entire country, out of which 1.23 lakh CSCs have been set up at Gram Panchayat level.

MeitY is implementing National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)/Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) to provide Digital Literacy in rural areas/villages. Around 72.92 lakh candidates have been trained and more than 33.15 lakh candidates have been certified.

To provide connectivity, under National Optical Fibre Project of Digital India programme, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 56,117 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,28,813 km.

(d) and (e) MeitY is implementing Common Service Centre (CSC) 2.0 scheme to make e-services available to citizens in 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats. Currently, 1.23 lakh CSCs have been set up at Gram Panchayat level.

To provide connectivity, under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project, renamed as BharatNet, the Government has planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 56,117 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,28,813 km.

State-wide area network project in Tamil Nadu

2225. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken State Wide Area Network (SWAN) project in the State of Tamil Nadu to connect State headquarters up to the Block level *via* District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps per link; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this project in the State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Wide Area Network (SWAN) in Tamil Nadu was approved by Government of India in March, 2005. The SWAN in Tamil Nadu has been operational since 1st December, 2007 connecting State Headquarter, 30 District Headquarters and 677 Block Headquarters with minimum bandwidth of 2 Mbps as vertical connectivity. The SWAN project in Tamil Nadu completed its 5 year of operation in December, 2012.

Setting up of Software Technology Parks of India

2226. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical as well as the financial targets fixed and achieved for setting up of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres in the country for the current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has any proposal to develop new Information Technology (IT) cities in the country, especially in the newly formed State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A total of 55 STPI centres are currently operational in the country. As per policy for setting up a new STPI centre, on receipt of a proposal from the State Government/Centre for Excellence/Higher Educational Institutes etc., STPI conducts a feasibility study jointly with the concerned department to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal. Since the initiative for setting up a STPI centre lies with the concerned State Government/Centre for Excellence/Higher Educational Institutes etc., it is not feasible for STPI to set targets for setting up of new STPI centres.

(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been received a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam. The details of the proposal are as under:

Area	: 40.4 Sq. km
Estimated Investment	: ₹ 10,375 crore
Estimated Manpower generation	
Direct Employment	: 3.7 lakhs
Indirect Employment	: 14.7 lakhs