

Items	Achievement
Pipe laid (Kms)	2,09,190
Pipe laid (GPs)	93,343
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (Kms)	1,75,238
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (GPs)	77,452
GPs provided with connectivity	16,573

Further, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has initiated a programme "Common Services Centre (CSCs) 2.0" for rural India in August, 2015 under Digital India programme for enhancing the number of CSCs to 2.5 lakhs at Gram Panchayat level over a period of four years. So far, 3,10,685 CSCs have been registered across the country, among which, 1,77,812 are at Gram Panchayats. These centres are Information and Communication Technology enabled kiosks, run by Village Level Entrepreneurs, to provide various Government-to-Citizen, Government-to-Business and Business-to-Consumer services such as Aadhaar services, Pan Card, Passport, Electricity Bill payment, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation services and services related to Education, Employment and Banking etc. to all rural citizens of the country.

Opening of India Post Payment Bank in Villupuram

1811. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to open India Post Payments Bank in the Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu in the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has planned to set up upto 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank co-located at each district headquarter post office by September 2017. However, Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu is not among the locations identified for roll out of IPPB branches in the current financial year.