

Demand for expanding the digital coverage in India

DR. K. LAXMAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, digital governance in India has undergone significant transformation in recent years. The Digital India programme launched in 2015 has been a key driver of these changes. By 2023, 1.3 billion *Aadhaar* cards had been issued, covering 99 per cent population of the country, reducing leakages and enhancing facilities. Another major initiative is Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. On a single call of our hon. Prime Minister, the entire marginalized communities have been brought into the banking system. More than 54.5 crore bank accounts have been opened by 2023. An amount of almost Rs. 30 lakh crore has been directly transferred into the bank accounts of these poor people without any leakages and without any role of middlemen. हम पिछली सरकार के समय में सुनते थे, तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री ने खुद बताया था कि अगर हम दिल्ली से 100 रुपए गरीब के हित के लिए भेजते हैं, तो उनमें से सिर्फ 15 रुपए गरीब तक पहुँचते हैं और 85 रुपए दलाल की जेब में पहुँचते हैं। This is the transformation which took place under Modiji's rule. Apart from this, My Government platform, which has a registration of 1.5 crore persons, is contributing to governance and discussion on policy making. Similarly, Digi Locker has provided 1.4 billion documents, securely stored on the platform and has reduced the need of physical documents. Despite these advances, there are challenges including the challenge of digital divide in rural India, where only 39 per cent rural households have access to internet. Moving forward, efforts should focus on improving internet connectivity, expanding digital literacy and strengthening cyber security to protect citizens' data. Continued investments in these areas will further enhance digital governance and ensure that all citizens, more particularly poor people in rural areas, regardless of location, can benefit from the services provided. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. K. Laxman: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Shri Prakash Chik Baraik; Need for Adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Farmers across the country.