



PRESS RELEASE

New Year Bonanza from Government for VLEs and CSC industry

New Delhi, January 4:

The New Year brings its own cuppa of cheer for VLE community and CSC business.

In the light of the resounding success of the Common Service Centre scheme under the Bharat Nirman Programme, the Inter Ministerial Coordination committee chaired by Secretary Planning Commission has decided to start finalizing modalities for expanding the scope of Bharat Nirman Common Service Centres to all Panchayats in the country. The Inter Ministerial Committee has approved specific rates that CSCs can charge for work related to services and dissemination of information from various government departments and ministries. Interestingly, the Investment for Development division of Department of Information technology has given its go ahead to the recommendations.

In a move that is bound to cheer Sahaj Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and make the CSC business more viable, the following has been approved:

1. CSCs can now charge Rs 100 per hour from by the concerned government department who avail of CSCs for data entry work and the scope is immense.
2. Lumpsum usage charges for using CSC services for all government departments@ Rs 2500 per month per Panchayat (specific to Ministry of Rural Development).
3. CSCs would be paid Rs 500 per block per month for any work specific to Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

The CSCs will be paid extra for printouts and all ministries and departments can avail of the services listed under 2 and 3.

Decision is yet to be taken as to share of revenue between VLE and SCA. A final announcement is also awaited as to when this scheme would be launched.

This decision will help VLEs earn designated incomes from government services and will also encourage them to undertake government and ministerial work. Over and above, such a move will provide for greater integration between Panchayats, government departments and the CSC industry. This will also foster the spirit of entrepreneurship among VLEs.

Bharat Nirman is Government of India's time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure launched in 2005. The total estimated investment proposed to be made is Rs. 1,74,000 crore. Bharat Nirman comprises of six components i.e. Irrigation, Road, Rural Housing, Rural Water Supply, Rural Electrification and Rural Telecommunication Connectivity. Three components namely, Rural Roads, Rural Housing and Rural Water Supply have been implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development with the estimated investment of Rs.85,000 crore. These components have well defined targets and the progress is closely monitored accordingly. The Programme imposes a responsibility on the State to create these facilities in a transparent and accountable manner.

Srei Sahaj e-Village Ltd. is a subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd. It is a business integrator in the field of IT infrastructure with a focus on rural India. It has 65 offices across 6 states and is emerging as one of the largest implementers of ICT-based projects in India. It has taken up the task of eliminating the undemocratic digital divide between rural and urban India, under the flagship of NeGP of the Government of India. It brings government, business, and services to the rural India through an expanding network of Village Level Franchisee Partners. Srei-Sahaj is set to launch 28,006 CSCs across the country. Over 16,000 CSCs have already been established, providing a single-window, one stop solution to the citizen's needs, under the Private-Public- Partnership (PPP) arrangement.