

## **Press Release**

e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures paperless. This is part of the broader Digital India Programme which is a high priority programme of the Government of India. Himachal Pradesh Assembly is the first one which has already become paperless.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for e-Vidhan Project. The Ministry is taking all the necessary steps for rolling out the Project in all the States at an early date.

Role of Nodal Officers appointed by the State Government for the Project and State NIC Officers is paramount for the success of the e-Vidhan MMP. Therefore, Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs interacted with the Nodal Officers from all 31 States/ UTs with Legislatures as well as respective State NIC Officers through Video Conferencing (VC) from NIC Headquarter on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. On this occasion, Dr. Satya Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ms. Nandita Chaudhari, DDG, NIC and other senior NIC Officers were also present.

During the interaction through VC, Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs welcoming all the Nodal Officers, gave great emphasis on their role as well as that of State Informatics Officers (SIOs) for the success of the project.

Secretary explained in details the features of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), which is being developed as a core product to be deployed on cloud (Meghraj) mirrored to the local State servers. NeVA would be a lite, simple, easy to download & operate Application. Purpose of the NeVA is to reduce the use of papers and bring automation in managing Legislative business in the House(s). Most of the features where no editing is required would be available for use by the Citizens without any key/password. It would have very few features for exclusive use of Legislatures to be accessed through ID & password.

Secretary emphasised on the special role to be played by SIOs/ other State NIC Officers as it would be a National Project. They would be associated with the project for initial period of 2-3 years.

Since, digitization of the State Legislatures is likely to contribute to the cleanliness & environment by reducing the use of papers to a great extent, therefore keeping in view the objective of Swachhata Pakhwada being observed by the Ministry from 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, said day of 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 was specially chosen for interaction with State Nodal Officers through Video Conferencing.

During the Video Conferencing, some States raised the issue relevant to the project, which were replied by Secretary and sought wholehearted support of all for the success of the National Project.

NeVA, the National Application is expected to be launched either on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 the Independence Day or the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018, the Gandhi Jayanti.

The Parliamentary Consultative Committee were instituted in 1969 with a view to create awareness among the Members of Parliament about the working of Government, to promote informal consultation between the Government and the Members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the Government and the manner of their implementation and also to provide an opportunity to Government to benefit from the advice and guidance of the Members of Parliament in relation to policy matters and implementation of programmes and schemes. At present there are 34 such Consultative Committees attached to various Ministries/Department. During the Swachhta Pakhwada of the Ministry from 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 in a meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Tourism held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, the message of Swatchh Bharat was also spread.