

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOKSABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2024

**PROMOTION OF IT INDUSTRY**

**854. SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:**  
**DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the key initiatives under taken by Government to promote the growth of the IT industry in the country;
- (b) whether India is the major exporter of IT Services in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the key achievements of the Government during the last decade in the field of expanding digital infrastructure including broad band connectivity, mobile networks and data centres;
- (d) the details of the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project undertaken by the Government; and
- (e) the manner in which it will benefit the connectivity in the country, particularly in the rural areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): With the aim to promote growth of Indian IT industry the Government has taken various steps which include setting up of 63 centres of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) across the country of which 54 centres are in Tier-II/III cities. These STPI centres are offering state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities including plug-n-play facility, centralized computing and High-Speed data communication to the IT/ ITeS industry/start-ups/entrepreneurs. Government is implementing Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme through STPI, which is a 100% export-oriented Scheme for the development and export of computer software, including export of professional services. Further the Government has come up with a National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) to create a vibrant software product ecosystem to complement the robust IT Industry for continued growth, new employment and enhance competitiveness. To interconnect with IT startup infrastructure pan India 'MeitY Start-up Hub' (MSH), a nodal entity has been set up. MSH is assisting incubators and startups improving their scalability, market outreach, etc. and has also established partnerships with various stakeholders paving the way for an economy built on innovation and technological advancement. It has been the endeavour of the Government to put in place a liberal and transparent policy for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, 100% FDI is allowed in IT sector under automatic route (except from countries sharing land border with India) subject to applicable laws/ regulations; security and other conditions. In order to promote start-ups in emerging technologies, various Centre of Entrepreneurship has been established.

(b): Yes, as per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the estimated export revenue of Indian IT industry is USD 194 billion in FY 2022-23. India has emerged as one of the significant and trusted player in IT/ITES and other technology services to the world's enterprises, Governments and consumers.

(c): The Government had launched the Digital India Programme with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-based economy, by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. Under this programme, significant milestones in expanding digital solutions and infrastructure, including broadband connectivity, mobile networks, and data centres have been achieved. State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) have been established across all States/UTs, except for the UT of Ladakh. Number of National Data Centres have been set up including National Data Centre in North-East Region (NDC-NER) at Guwahati, Assam which will act shall act as a Data Centre hub for all the eight North Eastern States. Simultaneously, over 86 crore broadband connections have been provided.

(d) and (e): BharatNet project is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunication in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages. The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized to provide broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc. The Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) in August 2023 for providing connectivity to 2,64,554 GPs that includes the existing GPs those are already service ready.i.e.2,10,190.

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