

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1551
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 31.07.2024

DIGITAL LITERACY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

1551. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:

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

- a) the manner in which the Government is promoting digital literacy and skill development initiatives to bridge the digital divide across urban and rural areas;
- b) whether the Government has taken initiatives to promote e-Governance and Digitisation of Government Services for improving efficiency and transparency; and
- c) the manner in which the Government is collaborating with industry stakeholders and academia to foster a conducive environment for technological innovation and growth?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): Digital India, the flagship programme of the Government of India, was launched in 2015 with the aim to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The digital empowerment, inter-alia, included and focused on universal digital literacy, universally accessible digital resources, availability of all documents/ certificates on cloud, availability of digital resources /services in Indian languages, collaborative digital platforms for participative governance and portability of all entitlements through cloud.

To promote digital literacy, skills and awareness to bridge the digital divide and to promote e-Governance and digitisation of government services across rural and urban areas the following initiatives have been taken:

- i. Through Common Service Centers (CSC's) across the country, various digital literacy courses like: Basic Computer Course (BCC) and Basic Course in IT (BCIT) are being offered for rural citizens. These courses are available at a nominal cost with assessment and certification from esteemed institutes such as Indian School of Business (ISB) and National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).
- ii. Government of India implemented a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India (one person per household). As on 31st March 2024, around 7.35 crore candidates were enrolled and 6.39 crore were trained, out of which 4.78 crore candidates were certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme. The Scheme was implemented by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited through 4.39 Lakh Common Service Centres spread across 2.52 Lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.
- iii. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The objective of this Skill Certification scheme is to enable Indian youth to take up industry relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. As on 26th July 2024, around 13.22 lakh candidates have been trained and out of which 5.97 lakh candidates have been certified under the PMKVY Scheme.

- iv. National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is imparting various digital literacy/skills programmes through its 52 centres along with more than 700 accredited institutes and more than 9500 facilitation centres. A total of 25,50,555 candidates trained/skilled by NIELIT in various Long Term Formal & Non-Formal, Short Term courses including Digital Literacy courses in the last 3 years .
- v. For promoting digital education and facilitating students, teachers and parents across the country, DIKSHA platform has been implemented. The platform is free and open for use by anyone. As on 22nd July 2024, 549.71 learning sessions have been imparted using DIKSHA. It has achieved 17.77 crore course enrollments and 14.24 crore course completions. As on date, 1.71 crore users are registered and out of this, 25.36 lakh users are from Uttar Pradesh. The platform is used significantly by the teachers.
- vi. SWAYAM PRABHA –32 free direct to home TV channels are devoted to telecast high quality educational programme. Swayam Prabha hosts new content daily for at least (4) hours. This gets repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing students to choose the time of their convenience. The channels are up-linked from Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N), an institution of MeitY. The contents are provided by National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT and NIOS.
- vii. DigiLocker has been rolled out to facilitate paperless governance in the country and to help common citizens store and share their public documents with ease. DigiLocker has on boarded 30 crore users and it has made available 675 crore issued documents.
- viii. Unified Mobile App for New-Age Governance (UMANG) is providing 2000+ government services from 200+ Departments. These services are available to citizens of India across the country in 23 languages. The platform is free and open for use by anyone.
- ix. My Scheme has been made operational to provide the information to common citizens in personalized and profile manner. 510+ central government schemes and 1890+ State government schemes have been on boarded at the platform.
- x. E-Sanjeevani, a national telemedicine service, is providing tele-medical consultation to common citizens. The platform, as on 25 July 2024, has served 27.28 crore patients. It can serve 4 lakh patients daily.
- xi. LokOS is playing a crucial role in realizing National Rural Livelihood Mission's (NRLM) vision of empowering Self-Help Groups (SHG) through digitization. LokOS helps in maximizing returns on the savings of SHG members and facilitate easy financial assistance for sustainable livelihood development at the grassroots level. LokOS has mobilized 10+ crore households and onboarded 91.6 lakh SHGs.
- xii. eTaal (Electronic Transaction Aggregation and Analysis Layer) shows that on an average 94.5 crore transactions are facilitated through electronic delivery of services. Out of 94.5 crore, 4.5 crore daily average transactions are facilitated by state government projects. The platform is used to monitor the progress of electronic service delivery across the country.
- xiii. Digital Village Project: MeitY thorough, CSC-SPV has implemented 'Digital Village Pilot Project' to provide education services, health services, skill development services, solar-powered street lights, and financial inclusion services along with government-to-citizen services and business-to-citizen services in 700 villages across the country (one village from each district of States and Union Territories (UTs)).

MeitY has undertaken various initiatives and measures to promote a technology-led startups and innovation ecosystem in the country. Some of the major initiatives are:

- (i) TIDE 2.0 Scheme: Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme was initiated in the year 2019 to promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc. The scheme aims to provide comprehensive support to tech-startups in seven thematic areas of National concern by leveraging emerging technologies. The Scheme is being implemented through 51 incubators through a three-tiered structure with an overarching objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organisations. The scheme is envisaged to provide incubation support to approximately 2,000 tech start-ups over a period of five years.
- (ii) MeitY Startup Hub (MSH): A nodal entity to interconnect deep tech startup infrastructure pan India a 'MeitY Start-up Hub' (MSH) has been set up under MeitY. 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. MSH has seen a consolidation of over 4550 startups, 460 incubators, 452 mentors, 22 accelerators and 43 state of the art Centres of Excellence (CoEs), successfully conducted/ being conducted 143 challenges in different technology areas encouraging development of innovative products / services to address current and pressing challenges.
- (iii) GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups): MeitY has envisaged an umbrella program GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups) for 5 years to discover, support, grow and make successful startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities with emphasis on collaborative engagement among startups, government, and corporates for promoting digitization based on the principals of inclusivity, accessibility, affordability, leading to growth in employment and economic outputs. GENESIS envisages further scaling up and sustaining the tech ecosystem especially to discover, support, grow and make successful startups. The platform envisages impacting and consolidating 10,000+ tech start-ups over the course of the next 5 years to pave the road for an equal startup ecosystem.
