

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:148

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001

DEVELOPMENT OF I.T.

AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made by India in the field of information technology in the past one year;
- (b) the names of the countries with whom MoU had been reached to promote information technology in the country;
- (c) the details of progress made in this regard so far;
- (d) the names of the countries, which have sought expertise in the field of information technology;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for maintaining global standard of this technology as also making it a source of inflow of foreign exchange so far;
- (f) the future action plans in this regard; and
- (g) the time by which the Government is likely to be self reliant in this field?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): The Information Technology sector has been growing at apace with a compound annual growth rate of over 50% per annum over the last 5 years in the software/software services sector. In 1999-2000 the total output of this sector was Rs.24,350 crores (US\$5.7 billion) of which exports were Rs.17.150 crores (US \$ 4billion) while the domestic software and services market was Rs.7,200 crores (US \$1.7 billion).

The projection for this sector for 2000-2001 is Rs.38,000 crores (US\$ 8.34 billion)of which exports are projected to contribute Rs.28,500 crores (US\$ 6.2billion) while the domestic sector would contribute Rs.9,500 (US \$2.1 billion). This sector currently employs 4.1 lakhs IT professionals as on 31.12.2000.

(b) and (c): The Ministry of I.T. has signed MOUs with the following countries for promoting bilateral cooperation in Information Technology and related areas: France, Bulgaria, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brazil, China, Australia, Mongolia, Mauritius, Vietnam and Egypt. The Ministry has signed Agreement/Proposal/Programme of cooperation with Russia, Ireland, Belarus. The Ministry is having regular interaction with these countries to discuss various proposals for cooperation and to review the progress.

(d): Individual countries have not sought Indian expertise in the field of IT at the Governmental level. However, the brand equity of Indian IT software professionals has been internationally recognized and this is reflected in the liberalization of Visa policies for Indian IT professionals by most of the developed countries of the world.

(e) and (f): The Government has taken several steps in the area of

- i) Quality Upgradation
- ii) Human Resource Development for IT, and
- iii) Infrastructure Development.

Thus, in terms of quality over 50% of the companies with a SEI/CMM rating of Level 5 are located in India and this number is increasing. Similarly, in the case of Human Resource Development, the Prime Minister has set up a Task Force to work out a long term strategy for doubling the intake of engineering students from 75,000 numbers per annum in 1991 to 1,50,000 numbers by the year 2001 and tripling it to 2,25,000 numbers in 2003. Government has taken several measures in terms of providing better infrastructure through the setting up of 18 Software Technology Parks under the aegis of STPI which are responsible for 2/3rd of the software/ software services export from the country. Similarly, Government has ended the monopoly of VSNL in terms of providing international gateways by throwing this sector open to private operators as also permitting them to set up their own landing stations.

(g): The industry is continuously striving to go up the value chain, process in which Government acts as a facilitator.