

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:249  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001  
REVIEW OF I.T. POLICY  
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Information Technology has made India a Software Super Power in the World;
- (b) whether the Government have framed an I.T. policy;
- (c) if so, the details and the basic thrust of the policy;
- (d) whether the Government propose to use I.T. to remove poverty, backwardness and unemployment;
- (e) if so, the number of jobs likely to be created in this sector in the coming years; and
- (f) the steps being taken to extend the facility of computer and internet to all the villages in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f): Government views the Information Technology to be a dynamic sector of growth in the Indian economy .

The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set a goal of India becoming a IT Super Power by the year 2008. Various estimates available with the Government project a market of 100 billion dollars of software business by the year 2008. On the domestic front, the principal area of focus for Information Technology is making it more relevant and accessible to the people. for meeting this objective, Government have taken number o f policy initiatives which include the establishment of Community InformationCentres in remote North Eastern States ofthe country and furthering the role o f e-governance in the Government of the States and the Centre.Government is committed t o provide for citizen-centric initiatives i n which better accessibility to information and greater transparency and efficiency is achieved.

So far as employment is concerned, the current estimates available with the Government show that the total number of professionals required by the Software Services included the IT enabled services and e-business sectors will be of the order of 23.67 lakhs by the year 2007. It is expected that the secondary employment due to the spread of computer education and the establishment of e-governance capability will lead to expansion of internet access facilities in the shape of IT KIOSKS andCyber Cafes. These will have a further impact on employment. The Action Plan in the education sector is designed to improve ITknowledge. It provides for setting up computer education facilities at a few schools in each blocks in the country over next 5 years. There is also a scheme to provide IT training to college students from under privileged sections of society.