

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6365
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
SOFTWARE PROGRAMME FOR BLINDS
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that some Educational Institute of Science Development are using software to bring light and hope in the lives of blind persons;
- (b) if so, the details of the various software programme used by these educational institutions in the country;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide special funds to encourage such programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. Under a Jai Vigyan National S&T Mission project, IIT, Kharagpur jointly with Webel Mediatronics Ltd., Kolkata are developing software and the relevant hardware for the benefit of blind persons with funding from Department of Information Technology, Government of India.

(b): The following software programmes have been developed for Braille literacy in major Indian languages:

- i) Text to Braille transcription system and its printing on an indigenously developed computerized Braille embosser.
- ii) Braille to text conversion using customized keyboard.

As part of this project, 30 blind schools in different parts of the country have been identified where the software and hardware developed by IIT, Kharagpur and Webel Mediatronics Ltd., Kolkata are being installed.

(c): Government may consider expanding the programme to cover more blind schools in the country depending upon the feedback received from the 30 blind schools where the software and the hardware is being installed.