GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3423
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
VIDYA VAHINI PROJECT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

:-

(a) the steps the Department of Information Technology have taken to ensure free fund flow for its ambitious Rs. 6,000 crore Vidya Vahini project that aims to take computer education to 60,000 schools across the country in three years;

(b) the districts in the States where this pilot project is being introduced; and

(c) the latest position of this scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a)and(b): Department of Information Technology has formulated a specific programme `Vidya Vahini` to integrate technological tools and Internet in the learning environment. The focus of the project is to use computer-aided learning techniques to develop and train the faculty to impart education to students, teachers and encourage them to develop course content and lessons in the digital form. The emphasis is to develop and provide content in the local language.

The programme is proposed to be implemented in 60,000 Government and Government-aided senior secondary schools in the country. Each school is envisaged to be provided with one computer lab having 10 PCs, Server and other computer items, Internet connectivity of 128 Kbps and course content as per CBSE syllabus. The project proposes to set up fully networked training labs with similar equipment as proposed at each school to train the teachers on use of IT tools and development of course content. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 6,000 crores.

Before taking up the main project, a pilot project has been initiated. 140 Government schools in the rural and semi-urban areas across the following seven districts have been included.

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1.   Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

2.   Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

3.   Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

4.  Gandhinagar, Gujarat

5.  Chittoor,  Andhra Pradesh
6.  Parli Vaijarnath, Maharashtra

7  South 24-Parganas, West Bengal
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A training lab fully equipped with the equipment as proposed at each of the school is also being set up at each of the above-mentioned districts.

A central portal is proposed to be hosted to provide access to students and teachers to all the education related material and course curriculum content in different languages, news and other educational tools.

(c): The site preparation at the schools in the districts of South 24-Parganas, Gandhinagar and Kuppam has been completed. The work is in progress at Lucknow, Allahabad, Parli Vvaijnath and Hazaribagh. The project is in advance stage of implementation. The equipment has been ordered and is under transportation to the selected schools. The portal is in final stage of development.

The Principals of the schools included in the pilot project in the districts of Lucknow, Allahabad, Gandhinagar, South 24 Parganas and Hazaribagh have been given training on the use of computers. A batch of 20 teachers of the selected schools in each district has also been given two weeks training on the use of computers and development of content.