GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

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

(a) whether the World Economic Forum in a recently released report has assessed the capacity of 75 countries to exploit opportunities offered by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector;

(b) if so, the rank of India in the said report;

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing the rank;

(d)whether the report has identified some bottlenecks with regard to use of ICT in India; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve India`s position in ICT sector?

Answer

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) and (b): World Economic Forum had released a Global Information Technology Report 2004-05 ranking 104 countries. The network readiness index rank of India is 39 in the report.

(c): E-readiness index is based on following three broad categories:

- Environment for ICT offered by a given country or community- market, political/regulatory, infrastructure;• - Readiness` of the community`s key stakeholders to use ICT- individual readiness, business readiness, government readiness; - Usage of ICT among these stakeholders - individual usage, business usage and government usage; (d) and (e): : India has been ranked low in the infrastructure environment and the individual usage category. However, the various steps taken to improve the position include: 1. Liberalization of broadband policies, National Internet Exchange setup by Government of India making registration and administration of .IN domain faster and easier. 2. DIT under the National E-Governance Plan (NeGP) has the following core infrastructure projects aimed at improving the e-Readiness of the states. a) Common Service Centre (CSC) b) State Wide Area Network (SWAN) c) State Data Centre (SDC) 3. DIT has also initiated Capacity building program at the state level to improve the Human Resources skills and to have the necessary structures in place for faster implementation of e-Governance projects.