GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5923
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
POPULARISATION OF SOFTWARE
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to popularize and implement free softwares in all Government supported Information Technology (I.T.) programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a), (b) & (c): Government maintains a stance of strict technology neutrality, platform neutrality and vendor neutrality. It has therefore not prescribed preferential treatment of one over the other. However, for popularizing and promoting Free & Open Source Software (FOSS) in the country, Government has set up National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) to carry out Research & Development, Human Resource development, FOSS deployment, Support and Awareness building in the country. The Centre has brought out a GNU/ Linux based Operating System named as Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) with wide Indian languages support. BOSS CDs are available for free distribution and can be downloaded from http://bosslinux.in. Also, Government has developed free language CDs containing software and fonts for 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages and these are available at http://www.ildc.gov.in.