

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:289

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

LOW COST COMPUTER

Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Singh Shri Bhola

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a tablet PC called 'Aakash' is being manufactured in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the price likely to be fixed for this tablet PC along with the amount of subsidy in rupees proposed to be provided to the students therein;
- (d) the number of years within which this facility is likely to be provided to all the students from primary to higher secondary level in the country;
- (e) the details of the difference between this tablet PC and the laptop available in the market;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to enter into any joint venture with foreign countries for its development and marketing in other countries, besides making it available to school and college students in India; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manufacturing of Aakash has been done in India. M/s Datawind is the manufacturer of this current Aakash tablet. They have been given a pilot order for 100,000 pieces by IIT, Rajasthan which has placed order for these devices for the purpose of testing by students all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

(c) The price for this tablet PC for an order quantity of 1,00,000 devices is US \$49.98 per unit (which is converted to Rs.2276.00 at the exchange rate prevailing at the time of placing order) including charges like freight and insurance, servicing and documentation etc. The price also includes one year free replacement warranty from manufacturer. The idea is to make available this device to colleges and universities at 50% subsidy and then to request the colleges and universities to issue these devices to financially weak students from the library on the pattern of the Book Bank Scheme.

(d) Presently, National Mission on Education through Information Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme envisages 50% subsidy for such PCs for higher education institutions only.

(e) It is difficult to compare two devices as they belong to two different class. However, from the point of view of usability for education purposes, the Aakash Tablet PC may adequately fulfill the basic needs. While functionally, for basic requirements, there may not be very great differences between this tablet PC and a laptop PC, hardware-wise there is a lot of difference. Specification of this tablet PC is available on the website [www.sakshat.ac.in](http://www.sakshat.ac.in). Specification of laptop available in the market varies model wise and make-wise.

(f) Presently there is no concrete proposal in this regard.

(g) Does not arise.