GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
TECHNOLOGY FOR AAKASH TABLET
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the specifications and technology for the Aakash project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cover 604 universities and 35,000 colleges and gram panchayats under the national knowledge network in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of the said project?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Sir, the Low Cost Access-cum-computing Devices (LCAD) Aakash was launched on 5.10.2011. Based on the feedback received, the specifications of Aakash tablet have been enhanced which include upgrading the processor from 366 MHz Arm 11 based to a 700 MHz Arm Cortex A8 processor, improving the firmware, capacitive touch screen instead of resistive touch screen and replacing the battery of 2100 mAH with a battery of 3200 mAH capacity with no enhancement in cost.

(c) to (e) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) it is envisaged to provide connectivity to over 25000+ colleges and 2000 polytechnics in the country and to 419 universities/deemed universities and institutions of national importance. Connectivity to the universities is provided on optical fibre and to the colleges is provided on copper cable. Connectivity to universities beyond 419 mentioned above and Gram Panchayats fall under the ambit of National Knowledge Network (NKN) and National Optic Fibre Network (NOFN) respectively. Connectivity under NMEICT scheme is regularly reviewed with BSNL/MTNL.