

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR COMPUTERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued directive for use of Open Source Software (OSS) in computers in place of micro software across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of Departments and States which have started using OSS in computers;
- (d) the losses suffered by the Government due to non-implementation of the directives; and
- (e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for implementing the use of OSS in all the Departments of Union and State Governments on the line of other countries?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): No, Sir,

(c): At present, OSS is being used in 115 departments in the country for various applications. In all, 28 states/UT's are using OSS for various applications.

(d): Does not arise;

(e): For popularization and promotion of free & open source software in the country, National Resource Centres (NRCFOSSs) have been set up for R&D, FOSS deployment, support, awareness building and human resource development. NRCFOSS CDAC Chennai has brought out an open source GNU/Linux based operating system named as Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) with Indian languages support. BOSS can be downloaded from <http://bosslinux.in>. BOSS Support Centres have been set up across the country for providing hand-holding support to users. BOSS is being deployed in various departments for e-governance, office and education applications.

National Informatics Centre, NIC has implemented OSS in many central and state government departments. NIC has also established Open Technology Centre (OTC) to spearhead the adoption of FOSS in e-Governance applications based on Open Standards.