GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1937
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
INFORMATION TO DISABLED IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to make Government information available for the disabled people in rural areas where internet penetration is very low;

(b) whether any measures have been taken to ensure that the websites of several ministries granting licences, minimum food or minimum wage cards be updated regularly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for updation of Government websites?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a): For the benefit of people with disabilities, efforts are taken to develop government websites to be universally accessible. In this regard, Government has framed the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW), which were released in February 2009 and made part of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). National Portal of India (http://www.india.gov.in) has been developed as per these guidelines. For example, a user with visual disability can access this portal using assistive technologies, such as Screen Readers and Magnifiers. Hindi version of the portal is also made available. Many government websites are developed to provide the contents using local language. The guidelines also address the accessibility of websites on all bandwidths and devices.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): Efforts are taken by several ministries to update regularly the contents of the websites. Many websites have dynamic contents to provide updated details on various applications. For example, the website on MNREGA (http://nrega.nic.in) has job card and other details updated regularly. In the case of website of Directorate General of Foreign Trade the application status details are updated regularly.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The Guidelines for Indian Government Websites mandate the departments to have a web information manager whose responsibility includes monitoring the content and ensuring its quality and currency. The Departments are also advised to frame a 'content review policy' to ensure regular review of the websites content. As per the direction, these guidelines are to be complied while designing, developing and maintaining the websites of Ministry/Department/States/ Districts across the country. In this regard D/o Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has written letter to all Chief Secretaries to adopt Guidelines for Indian Government Websites in their states. The Cabinet Secretary has written to all Secretaries of Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India to take necessary steps to make their websites comply with the Guidelines. Details of the guidelines are available at the website: http://guidelines.gov.in.