

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

AAKASH TABLETS

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide low cost tablet to the students across the country;
- (b) if so, the number of tablets distributed so far under this scheme, Statewise;
- (c) whether the Government is unable to make available Aakash Tablets owing to their heavy demand;
- (d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to remove this shortfall; and
- (e) the action plan prepared by the Union Government for the distribution of the tablets and the norms determined for the distribution in the States and the details of the tablets to be provided to each State, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (e) Madam, presently under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, IIT Bombay is doing a project to achieve the following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware & software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets are being distributed for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions. So far 17000 Low Cost Access Devices have been received by IIT, Bombay and nearly 7000 have been distributed to technical institutions (like IITs and NITs). Since these tablets are for the purpose of testing and teacher empowerment, they would not be distributed to the students in the 1st phase. The devices are being tested and once the production capacities are built up, norms for distribution of the tablets and its beneficiaries will be developed.