

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2611
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
CHINA MADE KITS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether several kits of Chinese made are being used in Aakash tablets; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the justification of naming it indigenous tablet?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) Madam, at present, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project is being implemented by IIT Bombay for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs (Aakash -2) for teacher empowerment:

- (i) The acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) The hardware & software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices. In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets are being acquired for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

The purchase order from the IIT Bombay does not mandate a "Made in India" device. The emphasis has always been on devices that meet a certain set of specifications, pass the quality criteria, and are made available at a price equal to or lower than the price arrived at during the tender process initiated by the IIT Jodhpur which had envisaged 50% manufacturing in India and 50% supplies from outside India.

Also, in such devices, the key is not the hardware but the software that is made available on the device itself. The hardware merely provides a platform and the full value delivered by the Aakash device is a function of the applications available on it. None of the major components of Aakash such as the Processor, the LCD Screen, the Touch Panel, the Memory, the Battery etc., are manufactured in India. Hence, the only activity that could be undertaken in India is the design of the motherboard, assembly, and a host of applications to make it a powerful educational device. Keeping in mind that the Aakash 2 tablet is meant for educational purposes, the IIT Bombay has already developed and deployed quite a few educational applications on the Aakash 2 tablet.