

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6826

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

REVIEW OF AAKASH TABLETS PROJECT

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to hold back its proposed tender for procuring 5 million Aakash tablets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to review the Aakash tablet project as well as the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a & b) Madam, at present, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, the IIT Bombay is doing only a project for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the Low Cost Access cum computing Devices (LCADs) for teacher empowerment:

(i) Acquisition and testing of LCADs; and

(ii) Hardware & software optimization of LCADs. In the first phase 1, 00,000 tablets are allotted for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions. As the Government has not taken any decision to procure 5 million Aakash tablets, the question of holding back the tender does not arise.

(c to e) An Evaluation Committee constituted by the Government to evaluate the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) has submitted its report in the month of December 2012. The Aakash tablet project was one of the projects reviewed by this committee.