

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1555
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the Government is having any programme for the popularization of free and open source software;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any plan to implement free softwares in all the Government supported IT programmes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHR1 MILIND DEORA)

(a): and (b): Yes, Sir. Government has set up National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) to carry out Research & Development. Human Resource Development FOSS Deployment and Awareness building with the primary objective of popularization and promotion of Free & Open Source Software in the country. NRCFOSS is currently into Phase-M with CDAC Centres Chennai/ Hyderabad/Delhi/Mumbai IIT Madras/Bombay and Anna University as the implementing agencies.

The Centre has brought out a GNU/Linux based Operating System named as Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) with wide Indian languages support. BOSS can be freely downloaded from <http://bosslinux.in>. Also, BOSS CDs are available for free distribution. BOSS Support Centres are being set up across the country for popularization and adoption of BOSS.

(c) and (d): Presently, Government does not have any plans to implement free software in all Government supported Information Technology (IT) programmes. However, as brought out in (a), (b) above, Government is working towards promotion and awareness of Free & Open Source Software in the country to enable users to make informed choices.

DeitY has written letters to all the State Governments for possible deployment of BOSS Linux in the States/UTs.

- CDAC has signed MOUs with CHiPS Chhattisgarh, Govt of Tripura, Govt of Bihar, NIC and ELCOT Tamil Nadu for implementation of BOSS in various applications.

CDAC and other NRCFOSS agencies have been conducting workshops/ seminars/awareness programs to popularize the use of FOSS in the country.

BOSS Linux/ EduBOSS has been/ is being deployed at Punjab/Haryana schools. Chattisgarh. Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry. Indian Navy. Indian Army and Tamil Nadu.