

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013
AAKASH TABLETS
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) whether the Aakash Tablet project, meant for linking education with technology and bring it to the remote areas of the country has not achieved its objectives even after three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Data Wind, the supplier company had to supply one lakh tablets in the first phase as per the contract but only 17,000 tablets have been supplied as on date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the supplier company for not complying with the conditions of the contract; and
- (e) the action plan formulated by the Government to sign a contract with some other company to make the scheme realistic and to ensure supply of tablets?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) No Madam. A project was sanctioned to the IIT Rajasthan in September 2010 under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, for achieving following deliverables after acquiring the Low Cost Access-cum-Computing Devices (LCADs) for teacher empowerment:

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

This project was subsequently transferred to the IIT Bombay in April 2012. The IIT Bombay has received deliveries of all 1, 00,000 Aakash tablets which were ordered by them from Data Wind.

Further an Inter Ministerial Committee constituted for continuous R&D and timely delivery of Aakash tablets has already worked out detailed specifications of a further upgraded version of Aakash.