

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:209  
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014  
AAKASH TABLETS  
Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide low cost Aakash tablet to the students across the country;
- (b) if so, the number of tablets distributed so far under this scheme, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether Datawind company had been given an order for supply of one lakh tablets;
- (d) if so, whether Datawind company has failed to deliver the order and if so, the action taken by the Government against the said company; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for providing Aakash tablets to students in time?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.209 ASKED BY SHRI MAHABALI SINGH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING AAKASH TABLETS.

(a) to (d): Madam, no such scheme has been formulated. However, it is intimated that under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) a project with the objective of development of Low Cost Access Device (LCAD) was sanctioned to IIT Rajasthan in September 2010 with the following stated deliverables :

- 1) Procurement and distribution of 1 lakh LCAD
- 2) Optimization of the hardware and software of the LCAD
- 3) Testing of LCAD

This project was subsequently transferred to the IIT Bombay in April 2012. IIT Bombay placed a Purchase Order on M/s Datawind for procuring 1,00,000 tablets. It is stated that IIT Bombay has received deliveries of all 1,00,000 Aakash tablets from M/s Datawind. IIT Bombay has also imposed penalty for late deliveries of the tablets.

(e) An Inter Ministerial Committee, constituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), for continuous R&D and timely delivery of "Aakash" tablets has finalized the technical specifications of Aakash IV in its meeting held on 12th June, 2013. It has been decided to make available "Aakash IV" tablet on DGS&D rate contract, so as to enable various Government Departments and individual institutions (including educational institutions) to procure the Aakash Tablets without any difficulty.