

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4220
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
IT RESEARCH ACADEMY
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

-

- (a) whether the Government has setup any Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the role and the achievements of these Academy / Academies;
- (c) whether Mobile Computing, Networking and Applications (ITRA-Mobile) and IT based, innovations in Sustainability of Water Resources (ITRA-Water) have been launched by the Government in the recent past;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of these projects and
- (e) the funds allocated and released for the same along with the present status of each of them?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA) is setup as National programme to help build a national resource for advancing the quantity and quality of R&D in Information Technology and Electronics (ICTE, or IT for short) and its applications in IT and related institutions across the country. This will be accomplished by:

- (i) Building R&D Groups in IT;
- (ii) Networking the Groups and connecting them to industry and society;
- (iii) Producing high quality PhDs for industry, R&D labs and Academic Institutions;
- (iv) Enabling innovation in IT;
- (v) Enhancing societal problem solving skills

The enhanced IT R&D capacity created through ITRA will impact the overall ecosystem of Information Technology, to be reflected in the numbers of research groups and labs created, new research areas initiated, scale of PhD graduations, new curricula, innovative solutions to industrial and societal problems, strong linkages with R&D groups, etc.

The ITRA programme has been conceived by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and its implementation has been entrusted to Media Lab Asia, a section 25 not for profit organization of DeitY. Media Lab Asia operates out of its offices in Mumbai and New Delhi.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): Nine (09) team R&D projects have been taken up in 'Mobile Computing, Networking and Applications (ITRA-Mobile)' across 30 institutes. These projects are on the themes of

- (i) Context aware sensing, inference and actuation in Energy and Health Care;
- (ii) Post-Disaster Situation Analysis and Resource Management;
- (iii) Remote Healthcare Services;
- (iv) De-congesting India's transportation network;
- (v) Communication Assisted Road Transportation Systems;
- (vi) Voice and Gesture based virtual assistant;
- (vii) Mobile Broadband Service Support over Cognitive Radio Networks;
- (viii) Uncoordinated, secure and energy aware access in Wireless network; (ix) Coastal Region Offshore Communications & Networks.

Five (05) team R&D projects have been taken up in 'IT based innovations in Sustainability of Water Resources (ITRA- Water)' across 23 institutions. These projects are on the themes of

- (i) Improving Groundwater Levels and Quality through Enhanced Water Use Efficiency in Eastern Indian Agriculture,
- (ii) Improving ground water levels and quality

- (iii) Management of Urban Water Quantity and Quality
- (iv) Integrated Urban Flood Management in India: Technology-Driven Solutions
- (v) Water and Pest/Disease Management

(e): The approved outlay for ITRA is Rs. 148.83 crore out of which Rs. 31.33 crore have been released to Media Lab Asia for ITRA activities. 14 team proposals have been so far initiated in the current financial year 2013-14.