

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5758
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015
EMPLOYMENT IN IT SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people likely to get employment under `Digital India` programme during the next three years;
- (b) the status of the official language of the country and the regional languages likely to be in the electronic equipment/applications, softwares etc. to be developed under the `Digital India` programme;
- (c) the manner in which the people residing in the rural areas and do not know English are likely to get benefit/employment under the said programme; and
- (d) whether `Digital India` programme is likely to benefit only the English knowing people residing in urban areas and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): "IT for Jobs" is one of the nine pillars of Digital India programme under which following activities have been planned:

- i. 1 crore students from smaller towns and villages will be trained for IT sector jobs over five years.
- ii. BPOs would be set up in every north-eastern state to facilitate ICT enabled growth in these states.
- iii. 3 lakh service delivery agents would be trained as part of skill development to run viable businesses delivering IT services over two years.
- iv. 5 lakh rural workforce would be trained by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to cater to their own needs over five years.

(b): India is a multilingual country with 22 official languages. Less than 10 percent of the people in the country can read & write English. There are various challenges regarding Indian languages such as orthography (spelling issues), pronunciation (may be directly mapped but not always), one script for many languages & many languages with one script, etc.

The mobile web in regional languages also has many challenges such as character encoding, bandwidth cost, presentation issues, device limitations, lack of standardization, fonts, backward compatibility with legacy devices, rendering issues, lack of availability for all characters, issue of multiple scripts, standardization of glyph support, syllable composition and logic dependency on the implementation level of handset manufacturer.

Further there are issues with software applications, e.g. some applications are completely in English, some applications have static content in local language but forms in English and some applications are multi-lingual but only in limited languages (e.g. English and only one local language).

To resolve above issues, Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India has undertaken various initiatives in the field of the official language of the country and the regional languages likely to be in the electronic equipment/applications, softwares etc. to be developed. Under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme, CDs containing software tools and fonts for 22 constitutionally recognised Indian languages have been made available in public domain through the portal <http://tdil-dc.in>.

Under Localisation Projects Management Framework (LPMF) project, Government has envisaged to make information on Government websites available to the citizens in their own languages. This task is being carried out through the use of a LPMF being developed over a Cloud platform. A portal <http://localization.gov.in> has been launched for dissemination of information and providing basic localization tools and services. Four e-Governance awareness workshops were conducted for Mission Mode Project (MMP) leaders for dissemination of information about LPMF. Four training programmes were conducted for System Integrators and Consultants. Crawling of content and development of translation memories to enable automated localization of User Interfaces (also known as surface localization) for the 30 web portals under 15 MMPs have been completed.

(c) and (d): No, Sir. Government of India has undertaken several initiatives under `Digital India` programme which are likely to benefit

not only the English knowing people residing in urban areas but also to the people residing in the rural areas who do not know English. The manner in which these initiatives are benefitting rural people is as follows:

(i) Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL)

Under TDIL program, language CDs can be freely downloaded from <http://www.ildc.nic.in> and are also being sent by post to the doorstep of any user free of cost on request. Using software contained in these language CDs, a rural user can carry out various activities like letter/application writing, content creation, database creation, presentation making, online messaging, e-mailing and web browsing etc. in local languages.

(ii) Programme for Advancing Computer Education (PACE)

This programme seeks to impart training in the local language. The training is provided to the grass root level of the society in diverse areas of computer usage and Information Technology applications in all Indian languages. Other than the medium of teaching, the course is structured such that, those desirous of pursuing a career in the software industry can do so by enrolling for the advanced courses offered by the C-DAC's ACTS (Advanced Computing Training School). The PACE programme is closely monitored by C-DAC and its state level agencies to ensure a high quality of instruction. Emphasis is laid on close interaction with the industry, project work and feedback mechanism from students and the industry. Amongst the courses offered through the PACE programme are certificate and diploma courses designed to address the larger needs of students. These courses are designed in such a way that it can address the needs of a large spectrum of society including students, Government employees as well as, unemployed individuals. All C-DAC PACE Authorized Training Centers are well equipped with the latest computer hardware & software infrastructure. Thus, all the authorized centers provide an excellent environment for students to develop their computing knowledge.

(iii) Localisation Projects Management Framework (LPMF)

The information on Government websites have been made available to the citizens in their own languages through LPMF, developed over a Cloud platform. The portal <http://localization.gov.in> disseminates information and provides basic localization tools and services. On-the-fly surface localization of a web page has been facilitated through a simple browser based plug-in that can be downloaded and installed once by the end user. In addition to this, the dynamically changing data/content, especially querying the data in the local language, database query, sort order, report generation, printing, multimodal interfaces like mobile handset, text to speech, handwritten recognition, speech recognition, etc have been handled by process of internal localization.