

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3538
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
NATIONAL POLICY ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented National Policy on Information Technology to envisage growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details including the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to grant a comprehensive package for the integration and development of ICT in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for strengthening of ICT; and
- (d) whether the Government has also any proposal to improve the technical efficiency of ICT sectors and use of Data Envelopment Analysis to analyse the relative efficiency and productivity change in various sectors in the country and if so, the details thereof;

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): To strengthen and enhance India's position as the Global IT hub and to use IT and cyber space as an engine for rapid, inclusive and substantial growth in the national economy, the National Policy on Information Technology (NPIT) was approved by the Cabinet on 14th September, 2012. This policy envisages to increase revenues of IT and ITES Industry from USD 100 Billion at present to USD 300 Billion by 2020 including exports of USD 200 Billion. The key strategies identified in NPIT 2012 include creation of an ecosystem for a globally competitive IT/ITES Industry, which inter alia envisages formulation of fiscal and other policies to attract investment in IT industry in Tier II and Tier III cities.

The focus of the policy is on deployment of ICT in all sectors of the economy and providing IT based solutions to address citizen centric issues. It also aims to further boost the contribution of our IT and IT enabled services (IT-ITeS) sector to the national economy. The policy seeks to achieve the twin goals of bringing the full power of ICT within the reach of the entire country and harnessing the capability and human resources of the nation to enable India to emerge as the global hub and destination for the IT and ITeS sector by 2020.

(c): Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) as a comprehensive package for integration and development of ICT in the country on 18th May, 2006 with a common vision, implementation methodology and management structure to implement e-Governance projects in the country. NeGP comprises of 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) being implemented at the central, state and local Government levels and have a singular mission to make all Government services accessible to the common person in his/her locality, through efficient, transparent and reliable mechanisms. These consist of 11 central MMPs, 13 state MMPs and 7 integrated MMPs. The common program support components are aimed at creating the right governance and institutional mechanisms, core infrastructure, policies & standards and the necessary legal framework for adoption of e-Governance in the country. A total of 222 services are being provided under these MMPs with an average of over 11.76 crore e-Transactions/month.

Under the programme, robust e-infrastructure is being created to facilitate deployment of ICT solutions by various Departments and state Governments. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the core infrastructure components and also in most of the Mission Mode Projects. 33 State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) and 23 State Data Centres (SDCs) are already operational. The State Service Delivery Gateways (SSDGs) have been implemented in 19 States. For making public services available to citizens on anytime, anywhere basis, Department of Electronics and Information Technology has established 135,598 Common Services Centres across the country for enabling the people to access e-Governance services. Under the Mobile Seva project, an integrated common Mobile Service Delivery Gateway (MSDG) has also been created and made operational for enabling Government Departments to deliver mobile based services. Standards have been laid down in the areas of open standards, biometric standards, metadata & data standards, localization and language technology standards, etc. E-District MMP, which aims to provide high volume services that are delivered from the district or sub-district level and are currently not covered by any MMP under the NeGP is being implemented in all districts across the country. Significant progress has also been made in the delivery of services identified under the various Mission Mode Projects.

(d): Yes, Sir. Government has planned to improve the technical efficiency of ICT sectors and use of Data Envelopment Analysis to analyse the relative efficiency and productivity change in various sectors in the country under the projects of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).

Under State Wide Area Network (SWAN) project of NeGP, it was targeted to enhance the utilisation of bandwidth to more than 60% of the existing link capacity of 25 States/UTs by connecting horizontal offices through SWAN. So far, 24 states/UTs have increased their bandwidth utilization to more than 60% of the existing link capacity. Also, to monitor the performance of SWANs, the Department has mandated positioning of Third Party Auditors (TPAa) in the states/UTs. As on date, 27 states have empanelled the TPAs for monitoring the performance of the SWANs in the respective states/UTs. Remaining states/UTs are in the process of empanelment of TPA.

Under State Data Centre (SDC) project 17 states are utilizing more than 50% of the SDC infrastructure (percentage of rack space utilized). Also, in order to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, Government of India has taken an initiative namely GI-Cloud (MeghRaj). The focus of this initiative is to accelerate delivery of e-services in the country while optimizing ICT spending of the Government. This will ensure optimum utilization of the infrastructure and speed up the development and deployment of eGov applications. Some of the major benefits of MeghRaj are listed below:

Optimum utilization of Infrastructure

Speeding up the IT procurement cycle for eGov applications

Infrastructure elasticity – scale up and scale down based on the load

Easy replication of successful applications across States to avoid duplication of application development efforts

Availability of certified applications following common standards at National AppStore Current status of Meghraj project is following:

Two Cloud reports namely Strategic Direction Paper & Strategic Direction Paper published in June 2013

First National Cloud under MeghRaj, implemented by NIC has been launched in Feb, 2014.

National e-Gov AppStore was launched in May 2013 with 20 applications and 9 components.