GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4085
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Digital Literacy
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The target fixed by the Government to train individuals under the digital literacy programme along with the number of individuals who have been actually trained in the current year;
(b) Whether the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) has decided to advance the deadline of its ambitious digital literacy programme by four years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) The corrective steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed; and
(d) The steps taken by the Government to make internet content available in local languages?

Answer

(a): A Scheme for IT Mass Literacy (renamed as National Digital Literacy Mission) with the objective to make 10 lakh persons digitally literate throughout the country was approved by the Government on 04.03.2014. Subsequently, an expanded scheme under 'Digital India': 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' has been approved by Government on 09.12.2014 with the objective to make additional 42.5 lakh persons digitally literate in a period of four years. Both these Schemes are being implemented concurrently. Out of the total target of 52.50 lakh of both the schemes, 5 Lakh candidates are to be trained by Industry, Non-Governmental Organisations and others through their own resources/ under Corporate Social Responsibility and remaining 47.50 lakh candidates would be supported by Government.

So far more than 25 lakh persons have been trained under the two Schemes out of which 6.91 lakh candidates have been certified.

(b) and (c): As of now, about 34.5 lakh persons have been enrolled under the above mentioned two schemes and hence, it is likely that the set target of training 52.5 lakh persons would be achieved much earlier than envisaged.
(d): Under the aegis of Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) Programme, in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), software tools like Keyboard Drivers, Open Type Fonts and Libre Open Office for content creation in all 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages viz. Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu have been made available free for public through language CDs and web downloads (http://www.ildc.in) for the benefit of masses.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is actively engaged in creating domain name in Indian languages. As of now .Bharat is available in Hindi, Dogri, Konkani, Maithili, Marathi, Nepali, Sindhi languages and Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Manipuri, Urdu, Tamil and Telugu languages. Further efforts are underway to implement in remaining languages such as Santhali, Sanskrit, Assamese, Oriya, Kannada, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Sindhi (Perso Arabic).
NIXI is promoting .Bharat domain name through its accredited registrars who are making it available free for one year along with .IN domain name.
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