

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5080
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
AAKASH TABLETS
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

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

- (a) whether the hardware and software of Low Cost Access Device (LCAD) Aakash Tablet has been optimized and fully tested;
- (b) if so, the results thereof;
- (c) whether the LCAD Aakash Tablet will be made available to school and college going students particularly SC/ST students in the country including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) Madam, under 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 IIT Bombay in April 2012. IIT Bombay had procured 1, 00,000 tablets for the purpose of field testing in different climatic conditions and teacher empowerment.

(c) & (d) An Inter Ministerial Committee, constituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), for continuous R&D and timely delivery of "Aakash" tablets had finalized the technical specifications of Aakash IV and it was decided to make available "Aakash" on DGS&D rate contract, so as to enable the Government Department and individual institutions to procure the Aakash Tablets without any difficulty.