

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3924  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014  
BHARAT OPERATING SYSTEM  
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

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

- (a) the details regarding operating systems used by the Government in various departments;
- (b) the percentage of free and proprietary software used by the Government agencies;
- (c) the percentage of Government computers using "Bharat Operating Systems and Solution" (BOSS), developed by the Government;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the use of Multilingual free and open source BOSS operating systems in the Government departments and by the general public;
- (e) whether the Government plans to introduce it into the formal education system; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

**Answer**

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

(a): The Operating systems generally used by the Government in various departments include Windows, Linux (variants like Redhat, Ubuntu, BOSS etc.), Android, Unix etc.

(b): The proprietary software Windows and Redhat Linux is being supplied by NICS to the Government departments. However, Linux software is Free & Open Source and can be freely downloaded by the users and as such no percentage figures are available.

(c): Currently, around 2.5 million deployments of "Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) " Linux have been done by CDAC in education, government and e-governance sectors. Moreover, BOSS is available for free download from the website <http://bosslinux.in> and number of downloads reported from the site is around 70000. However, exact details of number of Government computers deployed with BOSS are not available.

(d): The Government has entrusted C-DAC with the development, support and promotion of Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) which is a GNU/Linux based Operating System distribution with wide Indian languages support. BOSS can be downloaded freely from <http://bosslinux.in>. Also, BOSS CDs are available for free distribution.

BOSS Support Centres are being set up across the country for adoption of BOSS. Workshops/ Awareness programs are conducted to encourage the use of BOSS in the country.

DeitY has written to all the State Governments for possible deployment of BOSS Linux in the States/UTs.

BOSS is being deployed in various initiatives jointly with Central and State Governments.

(e) and (f): The National policy on ICT Policy in School Education expresses a preference for Free & Open Source Software (FOSS) in order to expand the range of learning , creation and sharing;

# MHRD has released the National Policy on ICT in School Education in year 2012, in which it articulates preference for Free & Open Source Software in schools. [http:// ictschoools.gov.in](http://ictschoools.gov.in)

# NCERT has released National Curriculum on ICT in Education, based completely on Free & Open Source Software applications. The ICT course is being piloted in Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country. The course material is made available on a DVD based on Linux Operating System, Ubuntu and Free & Open Source Learning Management system MOODLE. The curriculum and the course material DVD has been circulated to all the states.

# The ICT in Education course for teachers by NCERT is also entirely based on FOSS and is available as an online course platform at <http://ictcurriculum.gov.in>.

# MHRD has issued a circular to all Boards of School Education across the country to not conduct any examination based on

proprietary software.