GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4123
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is using open source software in Government institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is developing open source software for the use of general public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government is also developing the software in different languages and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Operating systems generally used by the Government in various departments include Linux (variants like Redhat, Ubuntu, BOSS etc.).

Also, various open source software like OpenOffice, Apache Web Server, PostgreSQL Database , PHP, Drupal etc are being used in Government institutions; Development Environment like Eclipse, Netbeans are being used for the development & deployment of e-Governance applications like e-Office, Intranet portals etc.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. BOSS GNU/Linux has been developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Chennai. BOSS Linux comes with variants as desktop edition, EduBOSS − educational variant targeted to schools, & Server edition. BOSS Linux is in to the 6th edition featuring the latest Linux Kernel 3.16. The feature of Bulk document converter helps people to easily migrate from other Operating systems to BOSS GNU / Linux.

BOSS GNU/Linux supports all the official Indian languages which will enable the mainly non-English literate users in the country to be exposed to ICT and to use the computer more effectively.

Many e-Governance applications have been developed by using Open Source Software; many of these applications (like Minority Scholarship, e-Procurement, e-Public Distribution System, e-District, National Portal of India, Court Information System, Common Integrated Police Application, CollabCAD, etc) are accessed by general public for obtaining Government Services.

(e): BOSS GNU/Linux as indicated above supports all the Official Indian Languages such as Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Bodo, Urdu, Kashmiri, Maithili, Konkani, Manipuri which will enable the mainly non-English literate users in the country to be exposed to ICT and to use the computer more effectively.

Tools and fonts facilitating use of computers in 22 Indian languages have been developed and made available for free use through website http://www.tdil-dc.in/ by general public and Government officers.