PROMOTION OF DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN PUNJAB

2143. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to promote the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the country, especially in Punjab;
(b) the details of steps taken by Government to promote software production in Punjab; and
(c) the steps taken by Government to develop Mohali as an Information Technology (IT) hub?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c):   In line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratise use of technology, the Government of India has promoted Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) across India, including the State of Punjab. Government of India has facilitated development and deployment of several DPIs across sectors. The progress made under major DPIs, including that in the State of Punjab are as follows:

i. **Aadhaar:** Use of Aadhaar has enabled Aadhaar number holders to establish their identity to various requesting entities, such as government departments and agencies, banks and telecom service providers, by undergoing authentication of their Aadhaar number. As on 30.11.2024, after adjusting for the estimated number of deaths, estimated 132.92 Crore living Aadhaar number holders have been issued Aadhaar numbers across India, including 3.15 Crore in the State of Punjab (based on address recorded in Aadhaar).

ii. **Unified Payment Interface (UPI):** It is India's leading digital payment platform. By making digital payment platform technology and device agnostic, UPI has contributed to financial inclusion up to the grassroot level. It has facilitated around 1,548 Crore financial transactions with about 637 banks live on UPI in the month of November, 2024.

iii. **DigiLocker**: It is a platform for issuance and verification of documents/ certificates digitally where citizens can get authentic documents/ certificates in digital format from original Issuers of these certificates. It has facilitated more than 39.85Crore users and made available 902Crore issued documents from 986issuers on boarded on the platform. In Punjab, 47 Departments have been on boarded and using DigiLocker services.

iv. **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)**: It is the world's largest, most diverse school education platform. 558.3Crore learning sessions have been imparted using DIKSHA. It has achieved 18.02Crore course enrolments and 14.41Crore course completions. The State of Punjab has contributed 79 digital textbooks and 4,925 e-contents, with learners completing over 8.22 Crore learning sessions and 74.24 Crore learning minutes. During 2024-25, about 51,012 participants have been certified from Punjab on DIKSHA platform. Under PM eVidya, the state of Punjab has been allocated 5 DTH TV Channels (DD PM eVidya PB 143,144,145,146,147) to disseminate educational video programs in Punjabi in

addition to other Indian languages. Punjab has contributed 2,015 videos of 4,370 hrs duration on PM eVidya.

v. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** GeM facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs. Currently, 11,279 product categories and 333 service categories are listed on GeM.

vi. **Unified Mobile App for New-Age Governance (UMANG):**UMANG is unified platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services. Currently, 2,086 services from 207 Central/State/UT departments have been on-boarded on UMANG. In Punjab, 12 services from 2 Departments (Social Security and Women & Child Development) have been on boarded on UMANG platform.

Besides, Government of India has taken several measures to share the success of India's DPI with the global community:

i. India Stack Global (https://www.indiastack.global/) has been developed and rolled out with the aim to share the success of Indian DPIs and to facilitate replication in friendly countries.

ii. Global DPI Repository – Under Indian Presidency of G20 in 2023, Global DPI Repository (GDPIR) portal (https://www.dpi.global/) was designed, developed and rolled out by India. India contributed highest number of DPIs to the GDPIR.

To promote software production in Punjab, Government of India has established Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)at Mohali, which is operational, and has approved another STPI centre at Amritsar. Software Technology Park (STP) is a 100% export-oriented scheme for the development and export of software using communication links or physical media and including export of professional services.

Exports from STPI registered units in Punjab are as follows:

Year	2023-24
Exports (In Crores)	2570.34
Nos. of IT/IT enabled Services (IteS) Units registered with STPI	139

To promote IT/IteS Industry, innovation, R&D, start-ups, product and IP creation in the field of emerging technologies, a centre of excellence calledNEURONCoE has been established. This centre was established by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology ('MeitY')in collaboration with Government of Punjab, Indian School of Business (ISB) - Mohali, Punjab Technical University (PTU) and industry. It is targeted to support 100 start-ups over a period of 6 years in key domains like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT) & Virtual Reality to solve real world problems in Education, Agriculture, Healthcare etc. So far, NEURON has supported 66 startups and resulting in the development of 66 prototypes, 46 products and 50 IPR filings by these start-ups.

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