

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 945
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS

945 SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) details and expected outcomes of the partnership between NASSCOM Foundation, NITI Aayog, and Government in digitally empowering one lakh lives in India's Aspirational Blocks;
- (b) specific digital literacy programs and e-governance services that are being offered to communities in the 60 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) blocks as part of this initiative;
- (c) whether any strategies are being implemented to ensure that the digital literacy initiative effectively reaches and engages marginalized communities within the aspirational blocks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) manner in which Government plans to expand the initiative to include all other Aspirational Blocks?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) With the objectives of imparting digital literacy among women from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) communities through awareness and training, NITI Aayog and NASSCOM Foundation signed the Statement of Intent (SOI) on January 16, 2025. NASSCOM Foundation is currently engaged in 58 Aspirational Blocks across 18 States.

As per the Action Plan provided by NASSCOM Foundation, it aims to establish Digital Resource Centres in Aspirational Districts/ Blocks to facilitate access to e-governance services/schemes and to conduct training and awareness initiatives to meet the PM Digital Saksharta Abhiyan indicator in the Aspirational Blocks. The expected outcomes

of the partnership are the promotion of digital literacy and e-Governance among PVTG communities

- (b) The NASSCOM Foundation is implementing a digital literacy program tailored for PVTGs. The program includes a context-specific curriculum, engaging audio-visual content and the training of local digital ambassadors to conduct sessions in vernacular languages. A peer learning network supports ongoing knowledge sharing, while regular monitoring ensures progress tracking. Additionally, Digital Resource Centers (DRCs) are established to provide hands-on training, promote awareness of government schemes and educate on cyber security.
- (c) & (d) Yes Sir. To effectively reach marginalized communities in Aspirational Blocks, the digital literacy initiative adopts several key strategies like a customized curriculum for PVTGs, selection of community-based digital ambassadors, establishment of peer learning networks and interactive sessions with hands-on training. Regular monitoring of participation and progress is conducted along with a structured feedback mechanism to ensure continuous improvement.
- (e) Currently there is no plan to expand the initiative to other Aspirational Blocks.
