GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MeitY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 704
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2018

DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG TRIBALS

704.   SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the tribal youths have the lowest literacy in electronics and information technology as compared to others;
(a)   if so, the details thereof;
(b)   whether the Government is considering to start a scheme to boost digital literacy by giving special focus on tribal population especially in Jharkhand; and
(c)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):   1. As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 71st Round report on social consumption relating to education, the proportion of households in the Country having computer during 2014 is around 14% (only 6% of rural households and 29% of urban households possessed computers). This highlights that more than 15 crore rural households (@ 94% of 16.85 crore households) do not have computers and a significant number of these households are likely to be digitally illiterate. No specific data on tribal youth is indicated in the said NSSO report.

2.   Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is implementing several programmes, which have benefitted the tribal population. Some of these programmes are given below:

(i)   The Government of India has implemented two Schemes on providing digital literacy to the masses namely "National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)" and "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)" with a cumulative target of 52.50 lakh persons (one person from every eligible household) across the country. The targets envisaged under NDLM and DISHA schemes have been successfully achieved in December 2016. A total number of 7,17,412 Scheduled Tribe(ST) candidates were certified under NDLM / DISHA schemes.
(ii)   The Government has approved a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. The scheme is specifically targeting the rural population especially the marginalized sections of society including Scheduled Tribes. Under the Scheme, in the state of Jharkhand, a total of 9,37,011 candidates have been trained, out of which 4,32,094 candidates have been certified so far.
(iii)   Under the two Schemes for Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), so far, a total of 14,891 ST candidates have been trained, out of which 8,606 candidates have been certified as on December, 2017. In the state of Jharkhand, 1,522 ST candidates were enrolled and trained out of which 739 candidates have been certified.

(iv) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Centres are implementing

various projects / schemes for the upliftment of ST population. Some of these projects are as under:

    a) NIELIT Ranchi Centre is offering training in "O" & "A" level IT courses, digital literacy courses, etc through a network of 12 Accredited Institutes and 133 Facilitation Centres. A total of around 4,000 candidates have been trained in Jharkhand.

    b) Government has approved a project titled "Development of North Eastern Region by enhancing the Training / Education capacity in the Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT) Area" with an objective of setting up 18 Centres/Extension Centres of NIELIT in tribal dominated NE Region to empower the youth in the field of IECT area. So far NIELIT Centres are operational in 18 locations and have trained approximately 34,533 candidates.

    c) Permanent campuses of NIELIT have also been setup at Kohima in Nagaland and Agartala in Tripura. These Centers are offering various long term as well as short term courses in IT domain.

    d) Under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the ST candidates are being trained free of cost at NIELIT Centres across the country.

(v) Under 'IT for Masses' Programme which targets Women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, projects are funded for providing IT training including Digital Literacy, providing IT infrastructure to girls schools, women colleges, ST schools (Eklavya, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) and entrepreneurship creation. The initiatives undertaken for STs include the following:-

    a) 'e-Inclusion: IT training for Rural Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) & Women Beneficiaries'- 17,147 ST candidates trained.

    b) 'IT Mass Literacy Programme for Scheduled Tribe (ST)' - 4,392 ST candidates trained.

    c) 'Capacity building of 1,260 ST students of North Orissa University and its affiliated colleges in IT tools' - 1,260 ST candidates trained.

    d) 'IT skills & e-Inclusion through low cost access devices based awareness program for Scheduled Tribes – Kerala' - ICT infrastructure set up at 6 locations and 1,283 ST candidates trained.

    e) 'Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates – Chhattisgarh' 3,287 candidates trained on basic computer course and 857 candidates have been trained on Advance courses (Photoshop & Web Designing).

    f) 'Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates - Andaman & Nicobar' – 1,006 Candidates trained.

    g) 'Capacity building for the upliftment of 2,000 Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates - Union Territory of Lakshadweep' 1,878 ST candidates trained.

    h) "Empowering underprivileged (ST) youths and women of four backward districts of Nagaland through ICT skills training" approved with an objective of training 1,280 Tribal youths from 4(four) backward districts of Nagaland in 150 hours ICT course.

    i) 'IT oriented Handloom Sector Development Program for creative design, development & deployment by Artisians / Weavers of Jharkhand & Odisha State' - 05 IT based CAD Centres for Weavers/Artisan set up at Ranchi, Deoghar, Hazaribag, Latehar, Kharsawan; a total of 426 women including 91 candidates from Tribal community trained as CAD Master Trainer Weavers.

(vi) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is implementing Vikaspedia project under which a multilingual collaborative knowledge sharing platform (www.vikaspedia.gov.in) has been developed in 22 official Indian languages including Hindi and Santhali. The platform provides

digital content on key livelihood domains - Agriculture, Health, Education, Energy, Social Welfare and E-Governance. Under this programme, 121 Capacity building workshops on digital content access & sharing in regional languages were organized covering 10,579 first level service providers, Common Service Centre operators, Self Help Group Federation leaders, etc. across 15 districts with predominantly tribal population in Jharkhand. Further, theme based Mass media campaigns such as Digital payments were also taken up covering about 10 lakh population in the tribal belt of Jharkhand.