GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1587

TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 12th FEBRUARY, 2019

Member Centric Application

1587   SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:

Will the **MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (संसदीय कार्य मंत्री)** be pleased to state:

a)   whether the Government has brought in a Member-centric application with sole objective of knowledge transfer for the sake of capacity building of the officials of the Legislatures ;

b)   if so, the details thereof;

c)   whether the Government has sent any goodwill delegation of Members of Parliament to other countries so as to project the policies, programmes and achievements of the country in different fields with their counterparts and other opinion makers in other countries and secure their support in favour of India; and

d)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

(संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री)
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल)
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b):- Yes madam. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has developed National eVidhan Application (NeVA), a Member-centric application for Digital Legislatures. It is a web based as well as mobile based (mNeVA) application, which could be accessed at https://neva.gov.in. mNeVA is available at Play Store as well as App Store for download. The detailed status is at Annexure-A.

(c) & (d):- Yes madam. As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs exchanges Government Sponsored Goodwill Delegations of Members of Parliament with a view to effectively project our policies and achievements in different fields with opinion makers in other countries and securing their confidence in favour of India. Recently, the Indian Goodwill Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has visited Germany and Italy during 15th October, 2018 to 19th October, 2018.

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National eVidhan Application

One Nation - One Application

1.   As per Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is mandated to manage the government business in both the Houses of Parliament. In conducting the House Proceedings, consumption of papers in laying of Reports, Questions etc. is enormous. To reduce the consumption of papers and thereby to reduce the carbon footprints, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs thought of eVidhan- the Digital Legislatures.

2.   eVidhan is a Mission Mode Project to digitize and make the functioning of Legislatures paperless. This is part of Digital India, a high priority programme of the Government of India. Ministry desires to roll out eVidhan as National eVidhan Application (NeVA) covering all 40 Houses including two Houses of Parliament and thereby putting all them on a single platform.

3.   This journey began with a pilot project executed in Himachal Pradesh with the central assistance of Rs.8.12 Crores which made the Shimla Legislative Assembly the first Assembly in India to go paperless in 2014. This project resulted into overall savings of about Rs.5.08 Crores annually on account of expenditure on papers, printing, manpower costs and conservation of forests/ trees as ancillary benefits.

4.   NeVA is a member centric de-centralised digital application in .NET technology. It could be used by all 40 Houses and all the public representatives. NeVA-mobile app (mNeVA) has made its content accessible even without a touch-screen device installed in the House. It can be accessed on one's mobile or ipad. Since, NeVA is device agnostic App, most of the information could be accessed by all including the citizens without any login credential. NeVA website as well as Mobile App has been made operational for all 40 Houses. NeVA-mobile App is available for download from Play store and App store for Android and iOS mobiles respectively. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Manipur, Gujarat Legislatures have started using the Application and others have also adopted it as the intelligent IT Teams in each House is very enthusiastic about the Application for its simplicity and with regular training through Video Conferencing as well as through personalise workshop for each House being provided by this Ministry.

5.   Team NeVA, MoPA with its limited resources has made NeVA live for Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in respect of Monsoon as well as Winter Session 2018 and the ongoing Budget Session, 2019.

6.   NeVA -as a Member- centric application, addresses issues of Day to Day functioning of the House that covers, among other areas, the following:-

i.	List of Business (LOB)
ii.	Notice
iii.	Bulletin-1
iv.	Bulletin-2
v.	Starred/ Unstarred Questions including reply by the Departments (Q&A)
vi.	Bills: Introduced/ Consideration & Passing
vii.	Synopsis of Proceedings
viii.	House Proceedings-Verbatim
ix.	Committees Reports
x.	Rules & Procedures
xi.	Digital Library
xii.	Provisional Calendar
xiii.	Webcasting of live Proceeding of the House
xiv.	Reference material
xv.	Rotation of Ministries
xvi.	Contacts-Telephone Directory for each House
xvii.	Budget
xviii.	Press Releases
xix.	Secure page for each Member for submitting Questions/other Notices.

7.   NeVA in spite of being a state of art Application is user friendly and easy to use even for a layman. Mobile App is the core strength of NeVA Application. Moreover, all the 40 Houses are at one App making it truly a National App thereby proving the theory of ***"One Nation One Application".*** NeVA is not simply a website but a work-flow based App deployed in Cloud (Meghraj) for managing the functioning of the House including preparation of LOB, Q&A and other related documents.

8.   NeVA is a Rs.739 Crore (approx.) project for digital Legislatures covering all Houses. It is to be used by the Legislatures as well as all the Government Departments.

9.   EFC considered the proposal of this Ministry relating to appraisal of e-Vidhan project in its meeting held on 14th December, 2018 and decided that "The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may provide the software already developed to the States free of cost recommending them to make use of the same. Ministry may also take active steps to ensure that digitization of both the Houses of Parliament is completed at an early date. Based on the experience gained out of the digitization of the working of both the Houses of Parliament and the state of readiness achieved by the State Legislatures and also considering the level of devolution recommended by the 15th Finance Commission in light of the sharing pattern then existing, the project may be brought before EFC for appraisal."

10.   As a part of experience sharing and appreciation of NeVA, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs held a two days National Orientation Workshop on 24-25 September, 2018 in New Delhi which was attended by around 200 delegates from all the States/ UTs/ Houses giving the project a much needed fillip. As a capacity building measure, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has held 10 VC Sessions and 11 State specific Workshops on NeVA.