EXPANSION OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

2782. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

  (a) whether the Government has approved expansion of Digital India Programme;
  (b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated cost of the project, State/UT-wise including Punjab;
  (c) whether this programme would help in the expansion of skilling of IT professionals and promote cyber security, if so, the details thereof;
  (d) whether it is also proposed to extend digital locker app of MSMEs also and if so, the details thereof;
  (e) the details of the likely benefits to accrue to the people through the expansion of the Digital India Programme along with various Government services and facilities available on the digital platform; and
  (f) the other measures being taken by the Government to vastly improve and expand the digital imprint in each and every part of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b):   Government has launched the Digital India programme with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-based economy, by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. The programme is centred on three key vision areas, namely digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens. The overall goal is to ensure that digital technologies improve the life of every citizen, expand India's digital economy, and create investment and employment opportunities. Digital India has considerably bridged the distance between the Government and citizens and enhanced trust on government and governance. It has also helped in the delivery of services directly to beneficiaries in a transparent and corruption-free manner. In the process, India has emerged as one of the pre-eminent nations of the world to use technology to transform the lives of its citizens.

In August 2023, the Government approved the expansion/ extension of the Digital India programme with a total outlay of ₹14,903.25 crore during the period of the 15th Finance Commission i.e., 2021-22 to 2025-26. There are 8 sub-schemes under the Digital India programme. Details of the schemes with outlay is **annexed.** These sub-schemes are Central Sector Schemes, no State/UT-wise allocation is made.

(c):   The capacity building and skill development scheme within the Digital India programme covers the FutureSkillsPRIME programme for re-skilling/ upskilling of IT manpower for employability that is being implemented in partnership with industry dealing with future-ready and industry-ready technologies. Similarly, the Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programmeis for generating human resources in the area of information security and creating mass awareness on a national scale, covering various stakeholders.

(d):   The DigiLocker platform has been initiated by MeitY as a cloud-based platform to the residents for the issuance and verification of documents and certificates digitally. The DigiLocker service is being extended as Entity Locker to MSME enterprises, corporate entities, organizations, and other non-individual agencies for easy access and verification of important documents and certificates in a secure and paperless manner, leading to increased efficiency and productivity.

(e):   The main benefits of the expansion/ extension of the Digital India programme are as follows:

(i)   Ensuring the availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing and service sectors of the electronics and IT industry.
(ii)   Empowering citizens digitally through digital public infrastructure/ platforms and digital inclusion.
(iii)   Providing high speed connectivity to academic and research institutes and Government institutions.
(iv)   Promoting the development of manufacturing capabilities and Atma Nirbharata in electronics and IT hardware.
(v)   Promoting the creation of a sustainable software industry leveraging India's strength in the IT sector, disruptive innovations, and cutting-edge technology.
(vi)   Promoting research in core and applied areas including Supercomputing, Quantum Technology, Blockchain and Artificial intelligence, etc.
(vii)   Creating near real-time cyber security situational awareness at the national level for enhancing cyber security in the country.
(viii) Promoting digital payments and transparency in transactions.

Some of the major facilities available on the digital platform include Aadhaar (Digital Identity), Unified Payment Interface (Digital Payment), DigiLocker (Paperless Governance), UMANG (Mobile Governance), API Setu (Data Exchange), CoWin (Vaccination Platform), Government e-Market Place (Public Procurement), DIKSHA (Digital Education), E-Sanjeevani (Digital Healthcare), etc.

(f):   Apart from the schemes under the Digital India programme, the Government is implementing various schemes to augment production, employment and promote Atma Nirbharata through the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware, Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components (SPECS), Electronic Manufacturing Clusters 2.0, India Semiconductor Mission including the Development of Semiconductors & Display Fab Manufacturing Ecosystem, etc. The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) will expand the scope of skilling/ re-skilling through the opening of new centres/ extension centres. These initiatives will improve the digital footprint and expand the size of digital economy in India.

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The scheme-wise break-up of approved outlay for 5 years i.e., FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26under the Digital India Programme is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of sub-scheme	Approved outlay for 5 years (in ₹ crore)
1.	Capacity Building & Skill Development	2,858.00
2.	Electronic Governance	2,328.27
3.	National Knowledge Network (NKN)	1,645.52
4.	Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Manufacturing	628.10
5.	Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries	828.00
6.	R&D in IT, Electronics & Convergence, Communications & Broadband Technologies	4,431.46
7.	Cyber Security Projects (National Cyber Coordination Centre & Others)	2,034.00
8.	Promotion of Digital Payments[#]	149.90
	Total Outlay:	**14,903.25**

- Scheme transferred to D/o Financial Services (DFS), M/o Finance w.e.f. 17.07.2023.

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