GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2195
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.03.2020

DEFINITION OF DIGITAL LITERACY

2195.   SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

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

(a)   the definition of digital literacy as per the Government and the parameters used for its assessment;
(b)   the digital literacy rate of the country, age-group wise;
(c)   the steps taken by the Government to bridge the digital literacy divide in the country;
(d)   the steps taken by the Government for including the private sector in the National Digital Literacy Mission; and
(e)   the digital literacy rate of Srikakulam, age-group wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a):   Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (PMGDISHA) for ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 Crore rural households. As per the guidelines of PMGDISHA Scheme, the digital literacy has been defined as the ability of individuals and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations. Under the Scheme, the parameters used for assessment of beneficiaries *inter-alia* includes understanding the basics (terminology, navigation and functionality) of digital devices and using them for accessing, creating, managing and sharing information; using the Internet; using technology to communicate effectively; appreciating the role of digital technology in everyday life, in social life and at work; and carrying out cashless transactions using digital financial tools, online citizen centric services, etc.

(b):   National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has published the 71st Round Survey Report titled 'Social Consumption - Education Survey 2014', which *inter-alia* covers IT Literacy. As per this report, the proportion of households in the Country having computer was found to be around 14% (only 6% of rural households and 29% of urban households possessed computer). Further, for the age 14 years and above, the ability to operate computer in rural and urban areas was reported as under:

Proportion (per 1000) of population (age 14 years and above) able to operate a computer							
Rural				Urban			
Age group (years)							
14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above	14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above

| 183 | 41 | 14 | 3 | 489 | 243 | 148 | 68 |

(c): The steps taken by the Government to bridge the digital literacy divide in the country include the following:

  (i) In the years 2014 to 2016, two Schemes entitled "National Digital Literacy Mission" (NDLM) and "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (DISHA) were implemented by the Government with a target to train 52.50 lakh candidates in digital literacy across the country including rural India. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained, out of which around 42% candidates were from rural India.

  (ii) In February 2017, the Government of India 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). Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment System. So far, more than 3.46 crore candidates have been enrolled and around 2.81 crore have been trained, out of which more than 2.06 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.

(d): The National Digital Literacy Mission is now closed. However, under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (PMGDISHA), private sector companies have been involved in implementation through their CSR initiatives primarily for training the candidates outside the rural areas.

(e): The data on age-group wise Digital literacy rate of Srikakulam is not available. However, under the PMGDISHA scheme, so far, 48,011 candidates have been registered in Srikakulam; out of which 40,104 candidates have been trained and 25,882 candidates have been duly certified.

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