

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 271
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.07.2024

PROMOTION OF DIGITAL LITERACY

**271. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:**

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

- (a) whether there are any initiatives to promote digital literacy, skills and awareness among the general population in rural areas particularly in Budelkhand in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of these initiatives including the type of training provided and duration of the programmes;
- (c) the criteria for selecting participants and the expected outcomes of these initiatives; and
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry of Communication is collaborating with local educational institutions, NGOs and community centers to equip residents with the necessary skills to utilise digital technologies effectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d): To improve the digital literacy rate, especially in rural India, the Government of India has implemented a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India (one person per household). As on 31st March 2024, around 7.35 crore candidates were enrolled and 6.39 crore were trained, out of which 4.78 crore candidates were certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme. The scheme has been officially concluded on 31.03.2024.

The PMGDISHA Scheme is aimed at empowering the citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smartphones, etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse Internet, access Government services, search for information, undertake digital payment, etc. and hence enable them to use the Information Technology and related applications especially Digital Payments to actively participate in the process of nation building. Thus, the Scheme aimed at bridging the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population in the age group of 14 to 60 years. The marginalized sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), Below Poverty Line (BPL), women, differently-abled persons, and minorities were covered under the said scheme. The duration of the training was 20 hours to be completed in minimum 10 and maximum 30 days.

Further, as per the guidelines, a household was defined as a unit comprising of Head of the family, spouse, children, and parents. All such households where none of the family member was digitally literate would be considered as eligible household under the said Scheme.

The Scheme was implemented by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited through 4.39 Lakh Common Service Centres spread across 2.52 Lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.

The achievements of PMGDISHA Scheme in the districts of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh is as under:

Sl. No.	Districts	Trained	Certified
1.	Chitrakoot	68,053	53,755
2.	Banda	1,30,632	1,03,645
3.	Jhansi	1,38,807	96,225
4.	Jalaun	1,20,839	85,918
5.	Hamirpur	61,074	44,596
6.	Mahoba	81,065	60,542
7.	Lalitpur	56,366	42,904
