**PROMOTION OF DIGITAL LITERACY IN RURAL AREAS**

**1395.    SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:**

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

(a)    whether the Government has taken steps to promote digital literacy in rural and underserved areas;
(b)    if so, the details thereof including the number of beneficiaries, State/UT-wise;
(c)    the initiatives undertaken to attract IT investments in rural regions;
(d)    whether specific training programmes in emerging technologies like AI and blockchain have been rolled out and if so, the details thereof; and
(e)    the steps proposed to establish IT training centres in Bhiwani-Mahendergarh?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e):  The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched by Government of India to promote digital literacy in rural India. The aim was to reach 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide. The scheme has ended, as against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country as on March 31, 2024. The State/UT-wise achievement is given at **Annexure**.

MeitY, Government of India launched the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) to create jobs and promote IT/ITES in small towns by offering financial support of up to ₹1 lakh per seat. The schemes also provide incentives for promoting local entrepreneurs and hiring women and disabled individuals through BPO/ITES units across the country operating in States/UTs.

India is the IT skills capital of the world. Stanford University has ranked India amongst the top 4 along with US, UK and China in Global and national AI vibrancy ranking based on 42 indicators. Government of India has been taking steps to ensure that we continue to retain our advantage in IT skills. MeitY has initiated a programme titled "FutureSkills PRIME", jointly with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling of candidates in new/emerging technologies, namely, Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile and Cyber Security.

Further, under IndiaAI FutureSkills of India AI Mission, India AI fellowship is offered to B.Tech and M.Tech students of all the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognized engineering institutions.

IT Training Centres were set up under PMGDISHA scheme across the country, including Bhiwani-Mahendergarh districts of Haryana. Details are as below:

| District | Training Centres | Registered Candidates | Trained Candidates |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bhiwani | 858 | 86,167 | 72,171 |
| Mahendergarh | 683 | 54,230 | 43,081 |

## States/UTs wise achievements under the PMGDISHA Scheme

| Sl. No. | State Name | Registered Candidates | Trained Candidates |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 5,564 | 2,931 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 23,01,731 | 19,17,452 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 14,949 | 11,615 |
| 4 | Assam | 27,21,585 | 23,60,195 |
| 5 | Bihar | 82,40,606 | 74,12,740 |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh | 24,86,455 | 21,37,064 |
| 7 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 20,522 | 18,029 |
| 8 | Goa | 58,569 | 53,784 |
| 9 | Gujarat | 30,31,310 | 26,83,286 |
| 10 | Haryana | 18,57,815 | 15,77,109 |
| 11 | Himachal Pradesh | 6,61,922 | 5,32,976 |
| 12 | Jammu and Kashmir | 8,70,451 | 7,06,991 |
| 13 | Jharkhand | 27,52,731 | 22,86,356 |
| 14 | Karnataka | 29,64,726 | 24,40,957 |
| 15 | Kerala | 1,77,165 | 1,18,132 |
| 16 | Ladakh | 24,785 | 22,122 |
| 17 | Lakshadweep | 142 | 35 |
| 18 | Madhya Pradesh | 56,92,467 | 50,69,449 |
| 19 | Maharashtra | 61,23,970 | 53,23,817 |
| 20 | Manipur | 28,397 | 18,286 |
| 21 | Meghalaya | 1,52,783 | 1,06,063 |
| 22 | Mizoram | 30,317 | 23,125 |
| 23 | Nagaland | 11,990 | 8,968 |
| 24 | Odisha | 36,16,441 | 30,86,143 |
| 25 | Puducherry | 22,079 | 15,801 |
| 26 | Punjab | 17,46,448 | 15,14,820 |
| 27 | Rajasthan | 45,06,184 | 39,70,690 |
| 28 | Sikkim | 27,035 | 23,122 |
| 29 | Tamil Nadu | 17,04,537 | 14,07,880 |
| 30 | Telangana | 14,56,226 | 12,10,448 |
| 31 | Tripura | 3,25,000 | 2,64,186 |
| 32 | Uttar Pradesh | 1,63,14,369 | 1,45,48,273 |
| 33 | Uttarakhand | 7,85,978 | 6,73,306 |
| 34 | West Bengal | 28,36,714 | 23,95,565 |
| | **Total** | **7,35,71,963** | **6,39,41,716** |

**\*Chandigarh and Delhi are in Urban agglomeration, hence not covered under the Scheme.**

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