

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2245
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2025

BENEFICIARIES TRAINED UNDER PMGDISHA

2245. SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries trained under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) in Gorakhpur district;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to increase digital literacy among rural populations especially in remote areas of Gorakhpur;
- (c) the challenges faced in implementing the scheme in the district along with the measures taken to address them;
- (d) the details regarding partnership with local institutions or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to enhance the digital skills of individuals in Gorakhpur; and
- (e) the long-term impact of PMGDISHA on empowering citizens and enhancing digital inclusion in Gorakhpur?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated to reach digital literacy in 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide including the district of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The training & certification under the scheme was officially concluded on March 31st, 2024. 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. As against 6 crore, 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country.

In the district of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, a total of 2,56,870 candidates were trained under the PMGDISHA Scheme. In addition, a total of 18,964 candidates have been trained in Gorakhpur district as of 05 March 2025 in the last 03 Years under the Digital Literacy Course (DLC) scheme.

(c) and (d): To enhance the effectiveness of digital literacy training, National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) has established 4101 and 59 facilitation Center in Uttar Pradesh (excluding Gorakhpur) and Gorakhpur, respectively.

(e): The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the 'Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey' (CAMS) in its 79th round (July, 2022 to June, 2023). As per the survey, among the persons aged 15-24 years, around 78.4 percent reported execution of skill of 'sending messages (e.g., e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g., documents, pictures, video)'. Further, about 94.2 percent of rural households and about 97.1 percent of urban households possess telephone and/or mobile phone. From the said report, given the significant rise in smart-phone usage, internet penetration, and digital engagement in rural areas, the objectives of the scheme were successfully achieved.

Further, the impact analysis of the PMGDISHA scheme was carried out by three agencies namely IIT Delhi, Council for Social Development (CSD) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The latest impact assessment study of the PMGDISHA scheme was

conducted by IIPA. The gist of the evaluation report is that the PMGDISHA is a unique scheme due to its large scale and the use of remotely proctored examinations. The training provided under PMGDISHA has had a significant impact on the adoption of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and other forms of digital media. It has benefited its participants by enabling their access to a wide range of information and services for various purposes, helping to reduce the overall digital divide in the country.
