GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 845
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.02.2026

PROMOTION OF DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG SC/ST/OBCS THROUGH PMGDISHA

845. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has taken to promote digital literacy among Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs)/Other Backward Classes (OBCs) communities through the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; (b) the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) established in SC/ST dominated areas and the most backward Districts under the Digital India Programme;
(c) the number of SC/ST/OBC youth trained as Village Level Entrepreneurs and the percentage of women Village Level Entrepreneurs managing the CSCs; and
(d) the various proactive measures adopted by the Government to address the digital divide in remote rural and the most backward areas?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Digital India programme was launched by the Government of India in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratize technology, bridge the digital divide and empower citizens. Under the programme, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched in 2017 to ensure digital literacy. The scheme concluded on 31st March 2024.

Key aspects of the scheme were:
- The Scheme was one of the world's largest digital literacy initiatives.
- Over 6.39 Crore persons trained nationwide (against the target of 6 Crore).
- This scheme focused on empowering the marginalized sections of the society viz. Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- The States/Union Territories (UTs)-wise status of the SC, ST, and OBCs under the scheme is given at **Annexure-I.**

(b): As on date, around 5.87 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) are active across the country, out of which nearly 2.98 lakh CSCs are established in SC & ST dominated areas including most backward districts.

(c): Time to time physical and virtual training programmes are conducted for Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) to enhance capacity and service delivery capabilities. At present, 75,593 women VLEs are managing CSCs across the country.

(d): Various measures adopted by the Government to address the digital divide in remote rural and the most backward areas include:

i. **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**:
    - NIELIT provides digital literacy courses such as Awareness in Computer Concept (ACC), Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) etc.
    - NIELIT has trained 43 lakh+ candidates under various courses, including digital literacy and cyber security awareness.
    - Training is delivered through a wide network of 56 NIELIT Centres and 9000+ Accredited Training Partners/Facilitation Centres.
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ii. **NIELIT Digital University (NDU) Platform:**
    - NIELIT Digital University (NDU) Platform has been launched by NIELIT.
    - The platform delivers online and blended skill-based industry-aligned courses in emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity etc.
    - The platform includes built-in virtual labs for hands-on learning in Semiconductor Design, Cybersecurity, Cyber Forensics etc.
    - Learners get anytime-anywhere access to National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)-aligned courses.

iii. In addition, citizens across the country have also been enabled to access e-services under various initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), My scheme, Digi-Locker, e-Hospital and MyGov, etc.

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States/UT's-wise SC/ST/OBC candidates under the PMGDISHA Scheme

Sl. No.	State Name	Scheduled Caste (SCs)		Scheduled Tribe (STs)		Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	
		Regist-er	Traine	Regist-e	Traine	Regist-er	Traine
1	Andaman and Nicob Islands					1	
2	Andhra Pradesh	376	309	77	60	943	791
3	Arunachal Pradesh			2	1	4	4
4	Assam	218	191	271	228	530	443
5	Bihar	1771	1618	350	319	3937	3514
6	Chhattisgarh	327	283	749	641	1133	976
7	Dadra & Nagar Hav and Daman & Diu	1	1	3	2	3	2
8	Goa	12	11	4	4	26	24
9	Gujarat	203	178	511	448	1239	1097
10	Haryana	488	415	7	6	589	498
11	Himachal Pradesh	137	107	29	23	188	164
12	Jammu And Kashmi	110	97	42	32	154	137
13	Jharkhand	326	274	550	445	1258	1049
14	Karnataka	393	316	205	165	930	764
15	Kerala	21	14	3	2	89	59
16	Ladakh	2	1	2	1	2	1
17	Lakshadweep						
18	Madhya Pradesh	1010	902	1006	896	2545	2264
19	Maharashtra	671	577	661	583	1984	1730
20	Manipur	1		8	6	7	5
21	Meghalaya	1	1	108	70	1	1
22	Mizoram	1	1	17	13	5	5
23	Nagaland			6	4		
24	Odisha	585	499	662	553	1031	876
25	Puducherry	4	2			9	6
26	Punjab	741	650	8	7	340	298
27	Rajasthan	853	741	671	610	2013	1766
28	Sikkim	5	4	1	1	10	8
29	Tamil Nadu	258	202	9	6	566	462
30	Telangana	252	207	185	157	680	568
31	Tripura	66	55	82	65	70	57
32	Uttar Pradesh	3932	3524	145	128	8376	7467
33	Uttarakhand	164	141	21	18	301	268

34	West Bengal	501	415	135	114	315	263
	Grand Total	**1,34,45,**	**1,17,53,**	**65,47,**	**56,23,**	**2,92,96,**	**2,55,84,**

*Chandigarh and Delhi are in urban agglomeration, hence not covered under the scheme.

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