GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3014
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

CERT-In

3014. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

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

 (a) whether the Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In) has signed cooperation pacts with its counterparts in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan for cyber security, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the CERT-In is the nodal agency responsible for dealing with cyber security threats;

(c) if so, whether the Memorandum of Understanding will promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of security-related incidents between India and the three countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the work done so far in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the area of Cyber Security with its counterpart agencies in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. CERT-In signed MoU with CyberSecurity Malaysia on November 23, 2015, with Singapore Computer Emergency Response Team (SingCERT) on November 24, 2015 and renewed MoU with Japan Computer Emergency Response Team Co-ordination Centre (JPCERT/CC) on December 7, 2015.

(b): The Information Technology Act, 2000 designated CERT-In to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security:

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents
- Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
- Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
- Coordination of cyber incident response activities
- Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents
- Such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed

(c) and (d): In view of the need for international relationships and cooperation issues, the Government has made concerted efforts to determine the ways and means of expanding the international collaboration as well as exploring the possibility of commonality of approach between nations. This aspect of cooperation is being dealt with by way of security cooperation arrangements in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and its counterpart agencies that are willing to work together and share information in a timely manner for preventing cyber attacks as well as collaborating for providing swift response to the incidents.

The scope of co-operation between India and other countries includes the following areas relating to Cyber Security:

- Exchange of Information on Cyber Attacks and mutual response to Cyber Security Incidents
- Cyber Security Technology cooperation
- Exchange of Information on prevalent cyber security policies and best practices
- Human Resource Exchange
- Establishment of Broader Framework for Future dialogue

In the cyber domain, in view of the MoU and existing mechanisms of cooperation between India and Japan, both countries have collaborated to deepen the contacts for effective engagement, better communication and coordination, capacity building, information sharing and strategic cooperation in international matters on issues of mutual interest.

Following the recent MoU with CyberSecurity Malaysia and SingCERT, CERT-In has established Point of Contacts (PoCs) with both counterparts to enable better communication and coordination for the purpose of information sharing, incident resolution and any other issues related to cyber security.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3197
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

LOON AND WHITE SPACE PROJECT

3197. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI OM BIRLA:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to allow Google's Project Loon and Microsoft's White Spaces project on a pilot basis;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the security ramifications of such projects;
(c) whether any study has been done by the Government to present a cost-benefit analysis of such services;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the likely impact of such projects on the existing telecom operators in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b) : Google India has approached DeitY to conduct pilot test of Project Loon in India. The matter was discussed with all stakeholders and it was concluded that frequency band 700-900 MHz to be used in the pilot test of Project Loon is being used by cellular operators and if the pilot is carried out it will lead to interference with cellular transmissions. Revised proposal from Google India with change of frequency band is yet to be received. ERNET India, an autonomous organization under DeitY, had carried out a pilot testing to determine whether the TV White Space Technology is appropriate for establishing Internet connectivity in Gram Panchayat schools of remote areas.

Experimental licences have been issued to eight applicants for carrying out experiments at several places, using TV Whitespace technology, in the frequency band 470-528 MHz. The details of the applicant organisations and the frequency clearance given to them by this Ministry is enclosed at Annexure.

(c), (d) and (e): The cost benefit analysis and impact on existing telecom operators becomes available at the conclusion of experiments.

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Annexure

Details of Frequency clearance given by WPC Wing for grant of Experimental license to various Educational Institution/ Industrial organisations/ Government.

Applicant organisation/ Institution	Location	Frequency (in MHz)	Amount of spectrum allocated
IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi	525.0 MHz	5 MHz
IIT Bombay,	Villages of Palghar district, Maharastra (Khamloli, Haloli, Ganje,Paragaon, Manor, and Maswan)	508.0 MHz	10 MHz
IIT Hyderabad	villages in Medak district, Telangana and Coorg, Karnataka	542 to 550 MHz	08 MHz
ERNET	Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh	500- 510 MHz, & 518-568 MHz	60 MHz
IIIT Bangalore	IIIT Bangalore campus, Hosur Road, Bangalore	488 to 494 MHz	06 MHz
BHEL, Varanasi	Different locations at Varanasi (BHEL campus, Shivpur Tarna; Kashi Krishak Int college, Harhua; and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Bhatsar	500-520 MHz	20 MHz
Tata Advanced Systems	Village Jaunti, Delhi, Geo-coordinates (28.75028oN / 76.96667oE)	542- 550 MHz	08 MHz
Collector & Magistrate, Amrawati	Amrawati	505 MHz	10 MHz

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3139
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

DIGITAL LITERACY MISSION

3139. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the National Digital Literacy (NDL) Mission has achieved its annual target and if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(b)   the details of the funds allocated under this scheme, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): DeitY has approved two Schemes for providing digital literacy in the Country as under:-

i) A scheme entitled 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM) to train 10 lakh persons in digital literacy throughout the Country was approved in March 2014 at an outlay of Rs. 97.02 crore.

ii) Subsequently, a scheme entitled 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (DISHA) to train 42.5 lakh persons in digital literacy throughout the Country was approved in December 2014 under Digital India at an outlay of Rs.380.00 crore.

Both the above Schemes are being implemented concurrently. So far, under these Schemes, around 51.04 lakh candidates have been registered, around 38.34 lakh candidates have been trained and around 16.22 lakh candidates have been certified. The State/UT-wise details are at Annexure.

So far an amount of Rs. 32.07 crore (approx.) for NDLM scheme and Rs. 57.72 crore (approx.) for DISHA scheme has been released as Grant-in-aid to the implementing agency of the Schemes viz. CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. As per the Schemes, funds are not allocated state-wise.

Finance Minister in his Budget speech on 29.2.2016 has announced a plan to launch a new Digital Literacy Mission Scheme for rural India to cover around 6 crore additional households within the next 3 years.

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S.No	State/UT	NDLM Original Target	NDLM Revised Target*	DISHA Original Target	DISHA Revised Target*	Cumulative Target Original	Cumulative Target Revised*
1	Maharashtra	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
2	Bihar	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
3	Gujarat	60000	78000	250000	250000	310000	328000
4	Madhya Pradesh	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
5	Uttar Pradesh	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
6	West Bengal	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
7	Tamil Nadu	60000	78000	250000	250000	310000	328000
8	Karnataka	60000	78000	250000	250000	310000	328000
9	Rajasthan	60000	78000	250000	325000	310000	403000
10	Telangana	30000	39000	125000	162500	155000	201500
11	Andhra Pradesh	30000	39000	125000	162500	155000	201500
12	Jharkhand	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
13	Haryana	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
14	Assam	20000	20000	90000	117000	110000	137000
15	Odisha	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
16	Uttarakhand	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
17	Chhattisgarh	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
18	Punjab	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
19	Jammu & Kashmir	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
20	Kerala	20000	20000	90000	90000	110000	110000
21	Delhi	20000	26000	90000	117000	110000	143000
22	Meghalaya	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
23	Nagaland	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
24	Mizoram	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
25	Manipur	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
26	Goa	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
27	Arunachal Pradesh	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
28	Himachal Pradesh	6666	8666	30000	39000	36666	47666
29	Chandigarh	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
30	Tripura	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
31	Andaman & Nicobar	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
33	Daman & Diu	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
34	Puducherry	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
35	Sikkim	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
36	Lakshadweep	6666	6666	30000	30000	36666	36666
	TOTAL	899990	1129990	3850000	4627000	4749990	5756990

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*266
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2016

NATIONAL POLICY ON ELECTRONICS

*266   SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA:

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

(a)   the salient features of the National Policy on Electronics;

(b)   whether the Government proposes to revisit the present policy;

(c)   if so, the measures being taken to promote production of electronic goods; and

(d)   whether any proposal from the State Government of Telangana has been received in this regard and if so, the details and the status thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d):   A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *266 FOR 16.03.2016 REGARDING NATIONAL POLICY ON ELECTRONICS
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(a) and (b): The salient features of the National Policy on Electronics are enclosed at Annexure-1. The policy can be revisited at an appropriate time.

(c): The measures taken by the Government to promote production of electronic goods in the country are enclosed at Annexure-2.

(d): Under the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme, two applications for setting up of Greenfield EMCs at eCity, Hyderabad and Maheshwaram have been received from the Government of Telangana, which were accorded in-principle approval on 08.08.2013. The final applications for the aforesaid Greenfield EMCs are under appraisal. During the appraisal of these applications, some key information pertaining to the projects was sought from the Government of Telangana which is still awaited. Photonics Valley Corporation, Government of Telangana has recently, on 09.03.2016, submitted a proposal for setting up a photonics project.

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Salient features of National Policy of Electronics, 2012 (NPE 2012)

The key objectives of the Policy are:

(i) To create an eco-system for a globally competitive Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in the country to achieve a turnover of about USD 400 Billion by 2020 involving investment of about USD 100 Billion and employment to around 28 million people at various levels.

(ii) To build on the emerging chip design and embedded software industry to achieve global leadership in Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI), chip design and other frontier technical areas and to achieve a turnover of USD 55 Billion by 2020.

(iii) To build a strong supply chain of raw materials, parts and electronic components to raise the indigenous availability of these inputs from the present 20-25 per cent to over 60 per cent by 2020.

(iv) To increase the export in ESDM sector from USD 5.5 Billion to USD 80 Billion by 2020.

(v) To significantly enhance availability of skilled manpower in the ESDM sector. Special focus for augmenting postgraduate education and to produce about 2500 PhDs annually by 2020.

(vi) To create an institutional mechanism for developing and mandating standards and certification for electronic products and services to strengthen quality assessment infrastructure nationwide.

(vii) To develop an appropriate security ecosystem in ESDM for its strategic use.

(viii) To create long-term partnerships between ESDM and strategic and core infrastructure sectors - Defence, Atomic Energy, Space, Railways, Power, Telecommunications, etc.

(ix) To become a global leader in creating Intellectual Property (IP) in the ESDM sector by increasing fund flow for R&D, seed capital and venture capital for start-ups in the ESDM and nano-electronics sectors.

(x) To develop core competencies in strategic and core infrastructure sectors like telecommunications, automotive, avionics, industrial, medical, solar, Information and Broadcasting, Railways, etc through use of ESDM in these sectors.

(xi) To use technology to develop electronic products catering to domestic needs, including rural needs and conditions, as well as international needs at affordable price points.

(xii) To become a global leader in the Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS) segment by promoting progressive higher value addition in manufacturing and product development.

(xiii) To expedite adoption of best practices in e-waste management.

(xiv) To source, stockpile and promote indigenous exploration and mining of rare earth metals required for manufacture of electronic components.

To achieve these objectives, the policy proposes the following strategies:

(i) Creating eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector: The strategies include provision of fiscal incentives for investment, setting up of electronic manufacturing clusters, preferential market access to domestically manufactured electronic products, setting up of semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities, industry friendly and stable tax regime. Based on Cabinet approval, a high level Empowered committee has been constituted to identify and shortlist technology and investors for setting up two semiconductor wafer manufacturing fabrication facilities. Based on another Cabinet approval a policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic goods has been announced. The Cabinet has also approved Modified Special Incentive Package for the ESDM Sector and scheme for setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).

(ii) Promotion of Exports: The strategies include aggressive marketing of India as an investment destination and providing incentives for export.

(iii) Human Resource Development: The strategies include involvement of private sector, universities and institutions of learning for scaling up of requisite capacities at all levels for the projected manpower demand. A specialized Institute for semiconductor chip design is also proposed.

(iv) Developing and mandating standards to curb inflow of sub-standard and unsafe electronic products by mandating technical and safety standards which conform to international standards

(v) Cyber security: To create a complete secure cyber eco-system in the country, through suitable design and development of indigenous appropriate products through frontier technology/product oriented research, testing and validation of security of products.

(vi) Strategic electronics: The strategies include creating long-term partnerships between domestic ESDM industry and strategic sectors for sourcing products domestically and providing Defense Offset obligations for electronic procurements through ESDM products.

(vii) Creating ecosystem for vibrant innovation and R&D in the ESDM sector including nano-electronics. The strategy includes creation of an Electronic Development Fund.

(viii) Electronics in other sectors: The strategy includes supporting and developing expertise in the electronics in the following sectors of economy: automotive, avionics, Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), Industrial, medical, solar photovoltaics, Information and Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Railways, Intelligent Transport Systems, and Games and Toys.

(ix) Handling e-waste: The strategy includes various initiatives to facilitate environment friendly e- e-waste handling policies.

(x) Governance Structure: This envisages setting up a National Electronics Mission; Renaming of Department of Information Technology as Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and providing encouragement to States to promote the development of ESDM Sector.

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Measures taken by the Government to promote production of electronic goods in the country

1.   Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing is one of the pillars of Digital India campaign of the Government.

2.   Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the electronics hardware manufacturing. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs. The scheme is open to receive applications till 26th July, 2020. Under the scheme, from May 2014 to February 2016, Government has received 125 proposals involving proposed investment of Rs.1,05,780 crore, which are expected to generate employment for about 1,70,000 persons.

3.   Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme provides financial assistance for creating world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing units. For Greenfield EMC, the financial assistance of 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.50 crore for 100 acres of land and for Brownfield EMC 75% of the cost of infrastructure, subject to a ceiling of Rs.50 crore is provided as Grant. Under the scheme, from May 2014 to February 2016, Government has accorded final approval to 7 applications for setting up Greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Clusters and 1 application for setting up Common Facility Centre in Brownfield Cluster. Also, In-principle approval has been accorded to 14 Greenfield EMCs and 2 Common Facility Centres in Brownfield Clusters.

4.   Policy for providing preference to Domestically Manufactured Electronic Products in Government procurement is under implementation. So far, 9 electronic products and 23 telecom products have been notified under the policy.

5.   Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy has been approved to support Daughter Funds including Early Stage Angel Funds and Venture Funds in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Nano-electronics and IT. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R&D, product development and within the country. The policy would be available for approval of new Daughter funds upto 31.3.2017. EDF has been launched on 15.02.2016. CANBANK Venture Capital Fund Ltd. (CVCFL) is selected as the agency to house the EDF. Four Daughter Funds have been issued in-principle letter of commitments for contribution from EDF.

6.   A meeting of State IT Ministers and State Government Officials was held on 26.08.2014 to encourage them to actively promote electronics manufacturing. Several States have shown keen interest.

7.   Approvals for all foreign direct investment up-to 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

8.   Under the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme, approved units are allowed duty free import of goods required by them for carrying on export activities, CST reimbursement and excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available goods, as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

9.   Tariff Structure has been rationalized to promote indigenous manufacturing of electronic goods.

10.   Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods. As of now, 30 electronic products are under the ambit of this Order.

11.   Two Schemes for skill development of 90,000 and 3,28,000 persons, respectively in the electronics sector has been approved to provide human resource for the industry.

12.   The Scheme to enhance the number of PhDs in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (ITES) sectors has been approved. 3000 PhDs are proposed to be supported under the Scheme.

13.   Keeping in view the huge indigenous requirement on account of roadmap for digitalization of the broadcasting sector, Indian Conditional Access System (iCAS^{TM}) has been developed to promote indigenous manufacturing of Set Top Boxes (STBs). The iCAS^{TM} is available to domestic STB manufacturers at a price of USD 0.5 per license for a period of three years as against market price of USD 4-5 per license for other competing products. The implementation of iCAS^{TM} in the cable networks has already started.

14.   An Electropreneur park has been approved for providing incubation for development of ESDM sector which will contribute IP creation and Product Development in the sector.

15.   National Centre of Excellence in Flexible Electronics (NCFlexE) is being set up in IIT Kanpur with the objectives to promote R&D; Manufacturing; Ecosystems; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.

16.   National Centre of Excellence for Technology on Internal Security (NCETIS) is being set up at IIT-Bombay with the objective to address the internal security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.

17.   Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) is being set up in Bengaluru jointly with NASSCOM.

18.   An Incubation center with focus on medical electronics is being set up at Indian Institute of Technology - Patna.

19.   The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) provides funding under several schemes for promotion of R&D, including support for International Patents in Electronics & IT (SIP-EIT); Multiplier Grants Scheme and Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and Management.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2016

FREEDOM 251 MOBILE

*278   DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of launch of the world's cheapest smart phone 'Freedom 251' in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any complaint has been received by the Government against the company;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Department of Electronics and Information Technology has set up an internal panel to assess the viability and credibility of this smart phone/ project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of customers?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e):   A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b): The phone "Freedom 251" was advertised in media to be sold at a price of Rs.251/- (plus Rs.40/- for shipping), by the company M/s. Ringing Bells Pvt. Ltd. The phone was advertised with following technical specifications: 1.3 GHz Quadcore processor, running on Android Lollipop 5.1, 1 GB RAM, 8GB internal storage expandable upto 32GB, 4" qHD Screen, 3.2 MP AF Rear and 0.3 MP front camera and 1450 mAh Battery. Some concerns were raised regarding the offer made by the said company. The Indian Cellular Association (ICA) vide letter dated 17.02.2016 *inter-alia* informed that a smart phone with the aforesaid specifications cannot be manufactured and made available at such a low price of Rs.251/-. Others have expressed concern on the genuineness of the offer and have urged that consumer interest be suitably protected. Some Members of Parliament had also complained.

(c), (d) and (e): The Government through various Departments is taking steps to protect the interest of consumers. A complaint has been received against M/s. Ringing Bells Pvt. Ltd. by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. The Directorate of Enforcement is investigating the matter for possible contraventions of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. Further, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has taken suo motu action on the news coverage by TV channels/newspapers etc. and sent email to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on 19.02.2016 to keep a watch on the activities of the company which appear to be suspicious. In response SFIO has sent their Research report dated 23.02.2016 prepared by Market Research & Analysis Unit (MRAU) along with proposal to call for information under section 206 of the Companies Act, 2013 from Registrar of Companies (ROC). On the basis of the report of SFIO, Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide Letter dated 25.02.2016 has advised Regional Director (North Region) to direct ROC, Delhi to take up the matter with the company and its directors under section 206(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and send a report through the Directorate.

Also, an internal committee was constituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) on 20.02.2016 to review the issues involved in Freedom 251 mobile phone. M/s. Ringing Bells Pvt. Ltd. was informed vide DeitY's letter dated 22.02.2016 that mobile phones have been mandated under "Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012" for compliance to Indian Safety standards w.e.f. 13th September 2015. Therefore, the company was required to comply with BIS registration based to Indian safety standards.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3099**
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

SECURITY ISSUES IN IT SECTOR

3099   SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the security related issues in the Communication and Information Technology sector and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether there is any mechanism to check the operating systems developed by the private players in the Communication and Information Technology sector?
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(a) whether the Government plans to encourage the open source software; and
(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The area of Communications and Information Technology is characterized by rapid developments and fast changing obsolescence. With every IT product introduced into the market, newer vulnerabilities are discovered, leaving scope for malicious actions. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and limited window time available for an effective response, continuous efforts are required to be made to detect and prevent cyber attacks by way of   continuous threat assessment and near real-time situational awareness. Such timely information enables coordinated actions by the stakeholders to take appropriate proactive and preventive actions.

Accordingly, concerted efforts have been made to harvest the requisite information from multiple sources including Communications & Information Technology sector. These include incidents reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), technical measures, security cooperation arrangement with overseas Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and leading security product and service vendors as well as agencies within the government. In addition, the study reports published by various agencies across the world are also studied to understand the historical data with respect to global threat landscape and threat predictions. As such, Government has not felt the need to conduct a separate study on security related issues.

(b) and (c): The National Cyber Security Policy has laid a clear emphasis on reducing supply chain risks by way of testing infrastructure and facilities for security evaluation of Information Technology products, building trusted relationship with vendors and service providers and enhancing awareness among users with regard to threats and vulnerabilities as well as consequences of security breaches.

In this direction, Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate has established Common Criteria (CC) test lab for security evaluation of IT products including Operating Systems. With the result, India is now recognized as a certification producing country as part of the Global Common Criteria Recognition Agreement (CCRA). Following this, security evaluations done in India are acceptable among all the CCRA nations without the need for further testing.

(d) and (e): Government has taken many initiatives for encouraging the open source software, which are as follows:

    i. "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India" has been notified in March, 2015 as part of Digital India Initiative to encourage the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in Government organizations.

    ii. The Department has implemented various projects like National Resource Centre for Free & Open Source Software (NRCFOSS), Open Technology Centre (OTC) and Establishment of Support Centres during last few years, which have led to development of various Open Source Software and capacity building in area of Open Source Software.

    iii. Indigenous GNU/Linux based Operating System- "Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS)" with Indian languages support has been brought out by NRCFOSS, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Chennai. BOSS is available in Desktop, Server and educational version EduBOSS. BOSS has been released under GPL (General Public License) and is available for free download at http://bosslinux.in. Support Centres have been set up for popularization and adoption of BOSS/ EduBOSS. CDAC has also developed Secured BOSS which is being deployed in strategic sector.

    iv. Communication has been sent to all State Governments and UTs for possible deployment of BOSS / EduBOSS. BOSS has been successfully deployed in education, government and defense sectors in various States including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Orissa, Tripura, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Current installed base of BOSS and its variants is around 32 lakhs.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3061
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

MISUSE OF MATRIMONIAL SITES

3061   DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a)   whether the Government is aware that matrimonial sites are being misused for dating, cheating and exploiting women and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government is planning strict regulations for these websites;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to d):   Instances of frauds on matrimonial websites are brought to the notice of the Government time to time. A committee has been constituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development with representative of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and online service providers of the matrimonial sites to work out the possible ways for better regulations in order to mitigate and eliminate the frauds in the digital space concerning matrimonial sites.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *267
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

COMMON SERVICE CENTRES

***267   SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:**

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a)   the number of Common Service Centres set up during last three years and the current year so far, year and State-wise;

(b)   whether the Government has fixed any target for setting up more Common Service Centres and if so, the details thereof, year and State-wise;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to have one Common Service Centre per Gram Panchayat and if so, the action taken in this direction; and

(d)   whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the functioning of established Common Service Centres, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO *267 FOR 16-03-2016 REGARDING COMMON SERVICE CENTRES
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(a): The year and state wise status of setting up of Common Services Centre (CSC) during last three years (2013 to 2015) and till February-2016 are at Annexure-A.

(b):   Yes, Sir. The year and state-wise details are at Annexure-B.

(c):   Yes, Sir. The following actions have been taken by the Government :

- "CSC 2.0: A Way Forward" Project has been approved, in which it has been decided to establish additional 1.50 lakhs CSCs (from existing One lakh CSCs) to cover at least one CSC in every Gram Panchayat across the country.
- The Implementation Guidelines has been issued to States/ UTs. (http://deity.gov.in/content/csc-2.0-way-forward-0)
- Advisory has been issued by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to all States and UTs, requesting to co-locate the CSCs in the Gram Panchayat (GP) Premises or provide suitable space near the GP Bhawans.
- District and State level workshops have been organised in different States across the Country to encourage/motivate villagers to engage themselves as CSC VLEs.
- A National level workshop for Women has been organised in New Delhi to encourage/motivate the women to become successful entrepreneurs through CSCs.
- A State level workshop for all the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of Haryana has been organised recently to encourage/motivate award/incentivise the villagers to become successful through CSCs.

In addition, during the last 2 years, the following significant improvements have been made under CSC Scheme –

- Number of Active CSCs have increased to 1,57,040 as on 29.02.2016 from 83,950 (as on 31.05.2014);
- New Services namely Banking, Insurance and Pension under Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana have made CSCs very vibrant;
- Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (DISHA) for undertaking digital literacy has enabled active citizen participation through CSCs;
- About 600 workshops at Central/State/District level have been organised across the Country for training and advocacy;
- Railway, Passport, Election, Educational Services of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) have been rolled out through CSCs;
- Aadhaar Enrolment/Updation has been enabled through CSCs;
- The Government is determined to include the women and marginalised sections of the society in the CSC movement significantly. The following actions have been take :

  o Government has already issued guidelines to give preference to women as VLEs;
  o Awards/Incentives are being conferred to successful Women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs);
  o To encourage more participation of women, success stories are being published in monthly e-Magazine and News Letter.
  o 500 women belonging to weaker sections were trained under DISHA to become VLEs.

(d): Yes, Sir. The following assessment studies/ surveys have been got conducted by the Government:

1. Mid Term Assessment of CSC Initiative (Indian Market Research Bureau International, April 2010): The findings are at Annexure- C
2. Impact Assessment of Indian Common Services Centres (International Telecommunications Unions, May 2013): The findings are at Annexure- D.
3. Assessment Study of Common Services Centres in Seven States (CIPS, March 2014): The finding are at Annexure-E.

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Sl No.	State	2013	2014	2015	Till Feb-2016
	YEAR - WISE CSC SET UP STATUS (Cumulative)				
1	Andhra Pradesh	3932	4116	4550	4893
2	Arunachal Pradesh	169	200	200	200
3	Assam	3659	3915	2753	3816
4	Bihar	7027	8286	8243	8894
5	Chhattisgarh	2068	4394	5100	6416
6	Goa	12	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	12910	13685	13685	14708
8	Haryana	2	228	1932	2060
9	Himachal Pradesh	2372	3336	3036	3442
10	Jammu & Kashmir	849	989	1111	1226
11	Jharkhand	4393	4693	4705	4752
12	Karnataka	822	904	904	1148
13	Kerala	1913	2004	2682	2779
14	Madhya Pradesh	10126	13207	13207	13651
15	Maharashtra	25003	31272	31207	32313
16	Manipur	388	392	399	526
17	Meghalaya	196	227	221	235
18	Mizoram	122	136	43	136
19	Nagaland	109	220	45	239
20	Orissa	4636	6335	5469	7391
21	Punjab	2075	3569	3567	3778
22	Rajasthan	4720	7453	10360	9795
23	Sikkim	24	0	191	196
24	Tamil Nadu	1878	1130	5440	5625
25	Telangana	0	3464	843	3616
26	Tripura	146	146	202	206
27	Uttar Pradesh	14079	17882	19776	36479
28	Uttarakhand	1487	2079	2152	2300
29	West Bengal	5972	6337	5534	7040
	STATES TOTAL	**111089**	**140599**	**147557**	**177860**

Sl No.	Union Territory	2013	2014	2015	Till Feb-2016
	YEAR - WISE CSC SET UP STATUS (Cumulative)				
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	35	35	36
2	Chandigarh	1	28	28	29
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	8	9	60
4	Daman and Diu	0	1	7	43
5	Delhi	75	91	91	172
6	Lakshadweep	13	15	15	15
7	Puducherry	55	56	56	62
	UTs TOTAL	**144**	**234**	**241**	**417**
36	**GRAND TOTAL**	**111233**	**140833**	**147798**	**178277**

The State / UT-wise target to cover Gram Panchayats with CSC is as follows:

Sl No.	State	Total GPs planned	GPs to be covered by March 2016	GPs to be covered by Dec 2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	12833	12833	12833
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1779	923	1779
3	Assam	2196	2196	2196
4	Bihar	8463	6050	8463
5	Chhattisgarh	9734	5752	9734
6	Goa	189	189	189
7	Gujarat	13735	13735	13735
8	Haryana	6155	6155	6155
9	Himachal Pradesh	3243	2042	3243
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4128	1213	4128
11	Jharkhand	4423	2962	4423
12	Karnataka	5628	5628	5628
13	Kerala	979	979	979
14	Madhya Pradesh	23012	14643	23012
15	Maharashtra	27920	24123	27920
16	Manipur	165	165	165
17	Meghalaya	1463	703	1463
18	Mizoram	776	392	776
19	Nagaland	1123	543	1123
20	Orissa	6234	4289	6234
21	Punjab	12800	6650	12800
22	Rajasthan	9946	9946	9946
23	Sikkim	165	135	165
24	Tamil Nadu	12618	12618	12618
25	Telangana	8787	8787	8787
26	Tripura	1038	552	1038
27	Uttar Pradesh	51914	32948	51914
28	Uttarakhand	7555	3438	7555
29	West Bengal	3351	2765	3351
	STATES TOTAL	**242352**	**183354**	**242352**

Sl No.	Union Territory	Total GPs planned	GPs to be covered by March 2016	GPs to be covered by Dec 2016
1	Andaman and Nicobar	69	1	69
2	Chandigarh	17	17	17
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	11	11
4	Daman and Diu	14	14	14
5	Delhi	0	0	0
6	Lakshadweep	10	10	10
7	Puducherry	98	98	98
	UTs TOTAL	**219**	**151**	**219**
36	**GRAND TOTAL**	**242571**	**183505**	**242571**

Mid Term Assessment of CSC Initiative (IMRB, April 2010)

The assessment was conducted through Indian Market Research Bureau International (IMRB International) to understand whether the CSC Scheme rollout has been taking place in the right direction and collect feedback on the CSC Scheme from various stakeholders likewise: Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE), Service Center Agencies (SCA), Citizens, Government Agencies (GA), Local Level Intervening Institutions (LLII) and National Level Service Providers (NLSP).

The survey was conducted across 19 states covering 15 SCAs. A structured questionnaire was administered to respondents across the above segments to capture their experiences and views on different aspects related to the CSC Scheme.

The key observation results of the assessment are as follows:

a) 58% of the CSCs were operational, while 38% were yet to be established. Further, 4% had shut down.
b) Almost half (46%) of the CSCs were open 7 days a week – providing rural citizens with additional flexibility to access services.
c) More than 95% of the VLEs interviewed were found to be SSC/HSC or with higher educational qualifications.
d) 10% of the VLEs were found to be female – indicating that the CSC Scheme is creating a movement for empowering women in rural areas.
e) More than half of the VLEs were found to have received some training and most of them were satisfied with this training across parameters.
f) 74% of the CSCs earned less than Rs 3000 per month. For 45% of the VLEs, operating a CSC is the only source of income.
g) Government Functionaries cited frequent power cuts as a common reason impacting the CSC usage.
h) As per the village head, central location of the CSC (59%) and reasonable service charges (58%) are the top 2 driving forces for the usage of the CSCs.

Impact Assessment of Indian Common Services Centres (International Telecommunications Union, May 2013)

The study focused on offering the status report of the CSCs as well as identifying and highlighting the best practices and successful models within the scheme. In doing so, the study highlighted the challenges facing the scheme, especially the ones that take the scheme away from realising the implementation of CSCs.

The study helped to gain an understanding of the situation that prevails in the implementation of the CSC scheme. In addition, the study compared Indian CSCs with the global telecentre movement and highlighted the best practices that have emerged in India. This has also helped in offering recommendations for strengthening the scheme.

The key observation results of the assessment are as follows:

a) USO funds are required for addressing access and content needs of the CSCs
b) Legal and institutional framework are required to maximise the use of CSCs
c) Encourage local level R&D to stimulate local innovations and contributions to CSCs
d) CSC SPV for stimulating partnerships for delivering services through CSCs
e) Consider recognising all public access points for CSC up scaling plan
f) Developing service level charter to move towards professionalising the CSCs
g) Developing common branding to achieve impact
h) Constitution of Indian CSC network as a means to encourage peer-learning
i) Consider investing in developing a CSC ecosystem
j) Develop outcome mapping exercise to establish credibility and long-term sustainability

Assessment Study of Common Services Centres in Seven States (CIPS, March 2014)

An independent assessment study was conducted through Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), Hyderabad. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura were identified for the study.

The purpose of the study was to obtain meaningful pointers as regards (i) the nature and extent of the success of the CSC project in achieving its purpose and objectives; (ii) the administrative issues affecting the performance of the CSCs; and (iii) the sustainability of the CSCs in the long run.

Study reveals that following are some aspects, which if addressed appropriately, would contribute to greater success of the CSC scheme.

- The states do realize that CSC is an important vehicle for providing citizen services and as a part of the larger reform agenda of transforming the socio-economic status of the rural populace.
- Greater role by DeitY in policy and resource support through a steering committee approach,
- Strengthening of the institutional framework,
- Greater involvement of district administration in the implementation of the CSC Scheme,

It also emerged that the success of the CSCs depends on the following:

- VLE is a woman
- CSCs have high visibility
- Militancy is not affecting CSC operations
- Floor area is more or higher no of counters
- Internet availability is longer is better
- Electricity is available
- CSCs have power backup
- Availability of power supply is better
- CSC is the only source of income for VLE
- VLE is educated & have computer knowledge
- Suitable training is given to VLE
- Promotional campaigns by SCA and VLE are higher
- CSC is the only source of income for VLE

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3120
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

E-GOVERNANCE

3120.   SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -
(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a scheme for comprehensive e-governance;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
(c) the action taken by the Government to create awareness among the rural population
      regarding the use of information technology;
(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce legislation for preventing misuse of
      information technology and if so, the details thereof;
(e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen mobile communication technologies and
      also to convert class rooms into smart class rooms; and
(f) the action taken by the Government on the proposal of the State Government of Kerala for IT
      development?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India is implementing Digital India programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. The programme is being coordinated by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and implemented by the entire Government. Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-Kranti – Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for all, Electronic Manufacturing, IT for Jobs and Early Harvest Programmes. Various projects/schemes are being implemented under above nine pillars of Digital India to introduce comprehensive e-Governance in the country.

(c):   The following schemes are being implemented by the Government to create awareness among rural population regarding the use of information technology:

(i) Digital Literacy to the masses: DeitY is implementing following two Schemes namely (a) IT Mass Literacy (National Digital Literacy Mission) and (b) 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (दिशा) under 'Digital India' for providing Digital Literacy to the masses.

(ii) Common Services Centres (CSCs): The CSCs are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Governments, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen.

(d):   The Government of India has enacted "Information Technology Act, 2000", amended in 2008 for preventing misuse of information technology. The Act provides legal framework for electronic governance by giving recognition to electronic records and digital signatures. The formations of Controller of Certifying Authorities was directed by the Act, to regulation issuing of digital signatures. It also defined cyber crimes and prescribed penalties for them.

(e): The Government of India is implementing various schemes to strengthen mobile communication technology in the country. The details of the scheme are as follows:

- Mobile Seva platform has been developed by DeitY as the core infrastructure for all Government departments and agencies in the country for enabling the availability of public services through mobile devices. It enables a Government department to integrate both web and mobile based services seamlessly and enhances the access to electronic services tremendously due to the very high penetration of mobile phones, especially in rural areas.

- 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. 1517 sites are radiating as on 29.02.2016.

- The Government has approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

- Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages has been planned to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources.

- DeitY is implementing a scheme, namely "Enabling All Schools with Virtual Class Rooms" to convert classrooms into smart classrooms. The project will enable the school teachers to reach at far locations without physical presence and on the other hand empower the student to be taught by subject expert sitting at far end. The project aimed at creating smart virtual classroom facilities in 3500 schools & 50 District Institute of Education & Training (DIETs) across 7 states.

(f): The Government of India is supporting the Government of Kerala in the successful adoption of e-Governance through technical consulting and financial assistance to multiple programmes. Few of the key initiatives supported by DietY includes:

- E-District project is being implemented as a state Mission Mode Project (MMP) to provide various citizen centric services including e-Services of Revenue department and Forest department. 30,000 e-Certificates are being issued on a daily basis and so far over 1.8 crore e-Certificates have been issued through e-District MMP.

- E-Office is being implemented in various Secretariat, Collectorate and Line Departmental offices in the state of Kerala.

- Financial and Technical consultancy for Cloud enablement in the second State Data Centre to offer e-Governance Services in Kerala

- NOFN is being implemented as a core infrastructure project to connect all the Gram Panchayats in the country using high speed optical fibre. Kerala is the first state in the country to achieve 100% NOFN connectivity in all Gram Panchayats.

- NKN is core infrastructure project of the Government of India to connect major academic, research and educational institutions in the state with high speed optical fibre.

- Thiruvananthapuram is one the pilot district chosen for National Information Infrastructure project to connect all the networks such as Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN), NKN and NOFN for improved availability, reliability and bandwidth.

- MG University, Kerala has been selected as one of the 20 universities in the country to conduct Digital India Workshop.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3202
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

LEGISLATION FOR DATA PROTECTION

3202.   SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a)   whether the Government is planning to introduce a new legislation for data protection in India;
(b)   if so, the details thereof; and
(c)   if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a), (b) and (c): Section 43, Section 43A and Section 72A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides comprehensive legal framework for privacy and Security of data in digital form. Section 43A mandates that body corporate, who collect personal data or information must provide privacy policy for handling of or dealing in personal information including sensitive personal data or information on their websites. Sections 43 and 43A of the Act provides for compensation to be paid to the victim in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. Section 72A provides for punishment for disclosure of information in breach of the lawful contract.

Further, the bill namely "The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery Of Financial And Other Subsidies, Benefits And Services) Bill, 2016" passed in Lok Sabha on 11th March 2016 contains a chapter relating to protection of information collected and stored by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and correspondingly a separate chapter on offences and penalties thereto. Provisions of data protection also exists in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the rules therein. There is no such proposal with the Government at present to introduce a new legislation for data protection in India

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3178
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

SPREAD OF TERRORISM VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

3178. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:
SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a)   whether acts of terrorism are being spread through social networking sites;
(b)   if so, the details thereof;
(c)   whether the Government proposes to take any action to curb the spread of terrorism via social networking sites; and
(d)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. The cyberspace is virtual, borderless and offers complete anonymity. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for spread of terror through the use of social media is higher than ever, posing a threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country. The Security / Intelligence agencies are regularly monitoring social media sites. Instances of using the social media/ websites by terror groups has come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(c) and (d):   Government takes prompt action under Section 69A of Information Technology Act 2000 for blocking of websites/ URLs with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders for blocking of websites/ URLs. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act requires that the Intermediaries (such as social media) shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of Computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable and unlawful in any way.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3098
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

NET BANKING FRAUD

3098   SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a)   whether instances of scams using IP addresses from abroad have come to the notice of the Government;
(b)   if so, the details thereof and the number of cases registered in this regard, State-wise;
(c)   whether the Government proposes to provide training to State police and cyber crime cell to prevent such scams; and
(d)   whether the Government is making any plan in collaboration with the Government of other countries to stop the misuse of IP addresses and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Several cyber attack techniques are used in combination while committing scams and net banking frauds.   The fraudulent activities comprising of phishing, lottery scams, ATM/Credit Card frauds, internet banking frauds, and other banking frauds involve usage of e-mail to trick the users to steal their identity credentials and commit fraud. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) receives reports regarding phishing incidents affecting users of online banking. As per information reported to and tracked by CERT-In, 534 Phishing Incidents were reported in year 2015. In 342 incidents, the phishing websites are hosted in countries outside India involving Internet Protocol (IP) addresses from abroad.

(b): As per the data made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 8765, 9500, 13083 and 11997 cases related to ATM/ Credit/ Debit Cards & Net Banking related frauds were reported by the banks during the year 2012-13,2013-14,2014-15 and 2015-16 (upto December 2015) respectively. Details regarding involvement of scams using IP addresses from abroad are not available with RBI. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered one case in the year 2014 involving IP address outside the country.

(c): Government has taken various steps to provide training to Law Enforcement agencies including State police to prevent cyber crimes and scams. Such steps include:

i.   Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.

ii.   Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.

iii.   Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs, set up in certain States, have taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation.

iv.   Academia like National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.

v.   Number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis, presentation of the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by Law Enforcement Agencies.

vi.   Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.

vii.   Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure Analysis and Presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States.

(d): The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) receives reports of cyber security incidents and analyses the same. For resolution of incidents involving IP addresses outside the country, CERT-In devises response measures in coordination with its counterpart agencies in foreign countries. Besides this, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are signed between CERT-In and overseas CERTs for enhancing cooperation in the area of cyber security for effective resolution of cyber security incidents and mitigation of cyber attacks.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3076
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

E-BHARAT PROJECT

3076.   SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement E-Bharat Project under E-Governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financing mechanism thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a):   The Government of India is implementing E-Bharat project under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in the country.

(b):   The Government of India, in the year 2011, has availed a loan for an amount of US$ 150 million from World Bank, towards programme management and financial support for National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). Being a Development Policy Loan, this loan is expected to support critical policy measures within Government's overall e-Governance reform agenda leading to more robust implementation of NeGP, with significant social benefits for the population and positive impact on the poor. Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) approached Ministries/Departments of GoI and all States/UTs to undertake projects under the funding available. It was also communicated that the funding to the approved projects would be in the nature of 100% grant-in-aid.

(c):   The Implementation Guidelines for e-Bharat project was issued on 31.10.2012. The project proposals have been invited from Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UT's. As on date, 40 project proposals have been approved with the total project outlay of Rs. 484.37 crore.

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CYBER CAFE IN RURAL AREAS

3009. SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government proposes to open cyber cafes in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives;

(c) whether certain areas have been identified for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d):   There is no proposal under consideration of Government of opening cyber cafes in rural areas of the country. The Government is rolling out Common Services Centres (CSCs) in the country. It is envisaged to set up at least one CSC in each of 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats. 1,78,277 CSCs have been set up till February 2016, out of which 1,22,065 CSCs are in Gram Panchayats.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3199
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

3199. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -
(a)   whether the National Conference of Women Village Level Entrepreneurs was held recently;
(b)   if so, the issues discussed therein;
(c)   whether the Government proposes for more participation of women in social transformation through digital revolution in the country and if so, the details of action plan proposed in this regard; and
(d)   the details of the services being offered by Common Service Centres (CSCs) and the extent to which it has been able to reduce corruption and malpractices in rural areas in the country;

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The National Level conference was held on 20th February 2016 in New Delhi to celebrate and felicitate the contribution of Woman Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in harnessing the opportunity provided by the Common Services Centre (CSC) under Government of India's Digital India Initiative.

Deliberations made during the conference are as under:
* The women VLEs shared their experiences on offering e-governance services and spreading digital literacy in the community;
* Two panel discussions were held on "Digital Literacy and Education Services" and "Women's Empowerment through Digital Services".

(c): Yes, Sir. The Government is determined to include the women and marginalized sections of the society in the CSC movement significantly. The following action has been proposed:
* Government has already issued guidelines to give preference to women as VLEs.
* Awards/ incentives are being conferred to successful women village level entrepreneurs (VLE).
* To encourage more participation of women, success stories are being published in monthly e-Magazine Tarang and newsletters.

(d): The list of services being delivered through CSCs is at Annexure.

Common Services Centre (CSC) enables citizens to avail the Government and other services closer to his place of residence in a transparent and timely manner. The ability of CSC to insulate citizens from interfacing Government officials to a great extent addresses the issues of corruption and delay. With the launching of further G2C services to the citizens through CSC it is expected that the issues of corruption can be addressed to a great extent.

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List of Services available through CSC network

(A)   G2C Services:

1.   Issue of certificates: Caste, Income, Birth & Death registration, Land records, Domicile.
2.   Employment Registration.
3.   Application for Ration Card, Application for pension (old age, widow etc), Application for Minority Scholarship/Girls Education Scholarship
4.   PAN Card Services, UIDAI Services, Election Commission of India (EC) Services, Passport Services.

(B)   B2C Services:

1.   Mobile / Data Card / DTH Recharge & Mobile Bill Payment.
2.   Electricity Bill Payment
3.   Tour & Travel (Booking for Air & Bus), IRCTC Service (through IRCTC authorized centres).
4.   e-Commerce service (Purchase of Various Products)

(C)   Educational Services:

1.   Digital Literacy under National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)/Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (DISHA)
2.   Brilliant Tutorials, Animation Courses
3.   IGNOU Services, NIELIT Services and NIOS Services

(D)   Financial Inclusion Services:

1.   Banking Services through Business Correspondents Agents
2.   Insurance Services (IRDA-Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority)
3.   Pension Services (PFRDA-Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

Other Services:

1.   Agriculture Service & Skill Development.
2.   Income Tax filing & Know Your TDS service.
3.   Health Care Services: Telemedicine, Jan Aushadhi Registration for medical stores.
4.   Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Registration for Toilet Scheme
5.   Registration of Workers & Submission of Claims for Building and Other   Construction.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2994
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

2994.   SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame a social media policy for strategic dissemination of information and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for convergence and integration of communication through an identified hub on social media?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Government of India has notified "Framework & Guidelines for use of Social Media for Government Organisations" on 8th Sept 2012. The framework & guidelines have been formulated with a view to help Government Ministries, Departments & agencies   to make use of social media platforms to engage more meaningfully with their various stakeholders. The document provides an in-depth review of types of social media, their characteristics and challenges in their uses.

(b): 'MyGov' platform is a Citizen engagement platform developed by the Government of India to promote the active participation of the Indian citizens in their country's governance and development. "My Gov" currently has about 18.8 lakh registered users. State instances have also been provided to Govt. of Maharashtra & Haryana on a test basis. Nearly 40 Ministries/Departments of Government of India have organised over 1200 Citizen engagement activities on "My Gov".

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3038
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2016

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDUSTRY

3038   SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of Communications & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a)   whether the Government has taken steps to encourage industry for offering services such as IT-based security systems for protection of buildings and campuses as well as surveillance and response capabilities, computers in schools, initiating e-governance projects and LED lighting;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b):   Government has taken several steps to encourage domestic electronics manufacturing industry for production of electronic goods, including security and surveillance systems, computers, telecom equipment and LED lighting, which are enclosed at Annexure.

The Government has regular interactions with industry regarding initiation and implementation of projects/schemes under Digital India programme. The schemes/projects under implementation have undergone extensive stakeholder consultations with Industry/Industry Bodies. The consultations with industry have been conducted for various schemes/projects like Digital Locker, Mobile as Digital Identity, e-Sign, Geographical Information System as Decision Support System (DSS), Unified Mobile Platform for e-Services delivery, etc.

(c): Does not arise.

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Steps taken by the Government to encourage domestic electronics (including security and surveillance systems, computers, telecom equipment and LED lighting) manufacturing industry

1. Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme of the Government.
2. The differential excise duty dispensation made available to mobile handsets/ tablet computers has been extended to the Routers, Broadband modems, Set-top boxes for gaining access to internet, Digital Video Recorder (DVR) / Network Video Recorder (NVR) and CCTV Camera / IP Camera, wherein, these will be charged Excise Duty of 4% (without input tax credit) while Countervailing Duty (CVD) on imports shall be 12.5%. To enable this, parts, components, accessories and sub-parts used for the manufacture of parts, components, accessories have also been exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD), Excise Duty/CVD and Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD).
2. Duty structure has been rationalised for promoting domestic manufacturing of electronic goods.
3. Policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products in Government procurement is under implementation. 9 electronic products viz., Desktop PCs, Laptop PCs, Tablet PCs, Dot Matrix Printers, Smart Cards, LED Products, Biometric Access Control/ Authentication Devices, Biometric Finger Print Sensors and Biometric Iris Sensors and 23 telecommunications products have been notified in furtherance of the policy.
4. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the electronics hardware manufacturing. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs. The scheme is open to receive applications till 26th July, 2020.
5. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme provides financial assistance for creating world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing units. For Greenfield EMC, the financial assistance of 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.50 crore for 100 acres of land and for Brownfield EMC 75% of the cost of infrastructure, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore is provided as Grant.
6. Approvals for all foreign direct investment up-to 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
7. Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy has been approved to support Daughter Funds including Early Stage Angel Funds and Venture Funds in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Nano-electronics and IT. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R&D, product development and within the country.
8. A meeting of State IT Ministers and State Government Officials was held to encourage them to actively promote electronics manufacturing. Several States have shown keen interest.
9. Under the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme, approved units are allowed duty free import of goods required by them for carrying on export activities, CST reimbursement and excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available goods, as per the Foreign Trade Policy.
10. Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods. As of now, 30 electronic products are under the ambit of this Order.
11. Two Schemes for skill development of 90,000 and 3,28,000 persons, respectively in the electronics sector has been approved to provide human resource for the industry.
12. The Scheme to enhance the number of PhDs in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (ITES) sectors has been approved. 3000 PhDs are proposed to be supported under the Scheme.
13. An Electropreneur park has been approved for providing incubation for development of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector which will contribute IP creation and Product Development in the sector.
14. National Centre of Excellence for Technology on Internal Security (NCETIS) is being set up at IIT-Bombay with the objective to address the internal security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.
15. National Centre of Excellence in Flexible Electronics (NCFlexE) is being set up in IIT Kanpur with the objectives to promote R&D; Manufacturing; Ecosystems; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.
16. Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) is being set up in Bengaluru jointly with NASSCOM.
17. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) provides funding under several schemes for promotion of R&D, including support for International Patents in Electronics & IT (SIP-EIT); Multiplier Grants Scheme and Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and Management.

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