

The LCADs will initially be acquired for teacher empowerment. In the first phase, only 1,00,000 tablets are being procured, and are for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

The purchase order from the IIT Bombay does not mandate a “Made in India” device. The emphasis has always been on devices that meet a certain set of specifications, pass the quality criteria, and are made available at a price equal to or lower than the price arrived at during the tender process initiated by the IIT Jodhpur which has envisaged 50% manufacturing in India and 50% supplies from outside India.

Also, in such devices, the key is not the hardware but the software that is made available on the device itself. The hardware merely provides a platform and the full value delivered by the Aakash device is a function of the applications available on it. None of the components of Aakash such as the Processor, the LCD Screen, the Touch Panel, the Memory, the Battery etc., are manufactured in India. Hence, the only activity that could be undertaken in India is the design of the motherboard, assembly, and a host of applications to make it a powerful educational device. Keeping in mind that the Aakash 2 tablet is meant for educational purposes, the IIT Bombay has already developed and deployed quite a few educational applications on Aakash.

Quality of education in Government schools

1316. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite a significant rise in public spending for education, quality education is not available in Government schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government conducts any study to ascertain the quality of education in Government schools;
- (d) if so, the findings of the study;
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure quality education in Government schools; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The National Council of

Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts National Achievement Surveys (NAS) at Grades-III, V and VIII periodically, on a sample basis under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Survey covers the Government-run and the Government-aided schools throughout the country and aims to know the learning levels of students. The findings of the recently completed NAS at Grade-V indicate that there is marginal to significant increase in the learning levels of students over time and the gaps in achievement between Boys and Girls have also narrowed down. The pass percentages of Government schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) indicates improvement in Class X performance and marginal decline in performance in Class XII:—

Category of School	2010		2011		2012	
	X	XII	X	XII	X	XII
Kendriya Vidyalayas	96.64	91.13	99.21	93.42	99.49	94.15
Navodaya Vidyalayas	98.72	95.31	99.48	96.89	99.58	95.96
Government Schools	83.01	84.49	97.85	84.02	97.77	83.66

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) through the SSA and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) supports the States and Union Territories to expand access as well as to improve quality and equity in schools. Under the SSA, the opening of 263428 new schools (165297-Primary and 98130-Upper Primary Schools), has been approved. Under the RMSA, 9636 new secondary schools have been approved and 34311 existing secondary school have been strengthened. The CBSE has initiated a strengthened form of School Based Assessment and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the schools affiliated to it in 2009. The CCE, in addition to academics, also focuses on Co-Curricular areas such as Life Skills, Organizational and Leadership Skills, participation in Literary and Scientific activities and participation in Physical Education and Sports.

CBSE and Pearson company research centre under PPP mode

1317. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently allowed Pearson company and the CBSE to set up a research centre under PPP mode;