

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 269
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.02.2023

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS COVERED UNDER THE PMGDISHA

269. SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:
SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) the details of features of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) that aims to improve digital literacy in rural households of the country;
- (b) the details of the progress made under the said scheme including the impact of the same thereon, State/UT-wise, gender-wise; and
- (c) the details of other such measures being taken by Government to improve digital literacy rates in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): To enhance digital adoption, Government is focusing on providing digital literacy to the citizens across the country especially in the rural areas. In line with this, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was approved in February 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India. The main features of the PMGDISHA scheme are as under:

- *The scheme is being implemented only in rural areas i.e. Gram Panchayat/Village to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household).*
- *The beneficiaries are provided with 20 hours of training consisting of 5 modules namely (i) Introduction to Digital Devices, (ii) Operating Digital Devices, (iii) Introduction to the Internet, (iv) Communications using the Internet, (v) Application of the Internet (includes Citizen centric services) and use of financial tools for undertaking digital cashless transactions.*
- *The training content is made available in 22 scheduled languages and English. This content is made available on both online and offline mode. In addition, keeping in view the thrust of the government on promoting cashless transactions through mobile phones, the content on digital wallets, mobile banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), and PoS has also been included.*
- *After training of the candidate, a third party Assessment of the trained candidates is carried out through online mode remotely proctored examination conducted by recognized Certifying Agencies namely National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL) and ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT). Digitally Signed Certificates are issued for all successful candidates and directly uploaded in their Digi-Locker accounts.*
- *For authorised Training Centres, a minimum Physical IT infrastructure along with a faculty at the training centre has been prescribed. Geo-tagging of the training centres have been implemented. Physical verification/inspection of the training centre is part of the process for training centre approval.*
- *State Level and District level committees are set up for effective evaluation and monitoring at the State & District levels.*

- *Dashboard access to Central/ State Govt./State Implementing Agency/District Administration have been provided for effective management and reporting.*
- *Grievances/Complaints Redressal Mechanism have been put in place.*

(b): As on 30.01.2023, around 6.69 crore candidates have been enrolled and 5.77 crore have been trained, out of which 4.28 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme. The State/UT-wise and Gender-wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

The PMGDISHA scheme has been assessed by three agencies till date namely IIT Delhi, Council for Social Development (CSD) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The last Impact Assessment study of the PMGDISHA scheme has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The findings of the IIPA impact evaluation report of the PMGDISHA Scheme are at **Annexure-II**.

(c): In addition to PMGDISHA Scheme, National Institute of Electronics & information Technology (NIELIT), a skill development agency of MeitY, is also conducting training in various digital literacy courses of different durations through its 47 centres and 4178 facilitation centres. In the last 10 years, more than 75 lakh candidates have been trained/assessed in such courses.

State/UT wise status under PMGDISHA scheme				
S.N.	State	Registered	Trained	Certified
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	4,577	2,153	1,226
2	Andhra Pradesh	18,86,691	15,22,949	10,79,009
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7,455	5,170	3,429
4	Assam	26,70,938	23,23,404	18,47,601
5	Bihar	73,33,837	65,20,115	47,62,019
6	Chhattisgarh	25,21,228	21,71,181	16,38,067
7	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	6,464	4,499	3,132
8	Daman And Diu	4,039	3,263	2,447
9	Delhi	8,669	6,929	4,899
10	Goa	55,980	51,139	37,683
11	Gujarat	27,90,930	24,50,395	17,99,258
12	Haryana	18,70,129	15,90,216	12,01,350
13	Himachal Pradesh	4,96,015	3,78,819	2,76,488
14	Jammu And Kashmir	7,13,183	5,61,511	4,05,442
15	Jharkhand	25,01,914	20,46,653	15,01,004
16	Karnataka	13,06,236	9,76,385	6,31,936
17	Kerala	59,493	28,534	22,167
18	Ladakh	24,710	22,096	17,354
19	Lakshadweep	136	44	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	55,84,997	49,65,186	36,71,653
21	Maharashtra	56,38,141	48,45,326	34,86,234
22	Manipur	21,865	13,491	8,487
23	Meghalaya	1,46,025	1,01,183	67,687
24	Mizoram	26,936	20,671	12,692
25	Nagaland	6,974	4,708	3,210
26	Odisha	32,73,179	27,42,502	20,71,079
27	Puducherry	17,974	12,112	8,146
28	Punjab	16,99,988	14,69,621	11,25,939
29	Rajasthan	39,32,501	34,12,202	24,93,587
30	Sikkim	24,655	21,306	15,661
31	Tamil Nadu	14,47,162	11,61,285	8,50,796
32	Telangana	11,19,868	8,97,021	6,14,622
33	Tripura	3,25,000	2,64,762	2,15,688
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,61,32,076	1,43,63,939	1,08,56,684
35	Uttarakhand	7,75,480	6,59,170	4,90,067
36	West Bengal	25,10,095	20,84,670	16,19,930
Total		6,69,45,540	5,77,04,610	4,28,46,673

Gender-wise certified candidates status under PMGDISHA scheme				
S. N.	State	Female	Male	Transgender

1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	672	554	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	8,31,345	2,47,638	26
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,957	1,472	0
4	Assam	9,53,736	8,93,510	355
5	Bihar	29,59,567	18,02,445	7
6	Chhattisgarh	9,04,153	7,33,912	2
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,744	1,388	0
8	Daman and Diu	1,490	957	0
9	Delhi	2,350	2,549	0
10	Goa	23,633	14,050	0
11	Gujarat	8,82,431	9,16,825	2
12	Haryana	6,04,649	5,96,699	2
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,55,665	1,20,822	1
14	Jammu and Kashmir	2,13,629	1,91,812	1
15	Jharkhand	9,41,415	5,59,584	5
16	Karnataka	3,39,355	2,92,577	4
17	Kerala	16,764	5,402	1
18	Ladakh	3,311	14,043	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	18,37,321	18,34,325	7
21	Maharashtra	18,76,355	16,09,857	22
22	Manipur	4,958	3,529	0
23	Meghalaya	34,361	33,321	5
24	Mizoram	7,332	5,358	2
25	Nagaland	1,624	1,586	0
26	Odisha	12,48,665	8,22,379	35
27	Puducherry	5,031	3,115	0
28	Punjab	6,24,100	5,01,825	14
29	Rajasthan	13,10,699	11,82,883	5
30	Sikkim	9,929	5,732	0
31	Tamil Nadu	6,32,212	2,18,545	39
32	Telangana	3,66,789	2,47,826	7
33	Tripura	1,21,201	94,480	7
34	Uttar Pradesh	60,52,144	48,04,518	22
35	Uttarakhand	2,73,069	2,16,996	2
36	West Bengal	10,52,883	5,67,026	21
	Total	2,42,96,539	1,85,49,540	594

PMGDISHA Scheme: The findings of IIPA impact evaluation report are given below:

- PMGDISHA is an unique scheme due to its mass scale and use of remotely proctored examination.
- 18% fund used in SCSP, 12% for TSP and 11% for NER have made sure the empowerment of weaker sections.
- Women participation is very large and their inclusion at the rural level will open up the path for the learning of the whole family.
- More than 55% of respondents cited a direct benefit to their livelihoods after PMGDISHA training.
- Almost 50% respondents stated that PMGDISHA helped them get a better Job.
- More than 40% of respondents empowered 1-5 people, 22.8% were able to help 6-10 people, 12.9% were able to help 10-20 people with the knowledge from PMGDISHA.
- PMGDISHA training has had a formidable impact on the use of ICT and other forms of digital media.
- PMGDISHA has served the beneficiaries by facilitating their access to a wide range of information points and services for multitude of purposes. It has helped to decrease the overall digital divide in the country.
- COVID 19 has put an unprecedented situation of uncertainty even in rural India. Digital initiatives have made a lot of things function even in the time of complete lockdown. Right from the banking systems, e-governance systems and PDS were aided immensely because of the availability of online processes. People in the rural areas have continued with their livelihood with the help of digital systems helping procure their produce, doorstep financial services, information gathering among other thing using digital technologies. The need of programs like PMGDISHA has become a necessity in times of such paradigm shifts in new environments. Understanding digital tools & ICT and using them effectively is the need of the hour and has proved as the saviour for the current crisis in supporting economic and social activities.
