

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3453**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 01.04.2022

**DIGITAL LITERACY**

**3453. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:**

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

- (a) whether Government is on track to meet the objective of ensuring 100 per cent digital literacy by 2022, as per the Niti Aayog Strategy for New India report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor including whether a revised target and/or deadline has been set;
- (c) the digital literacy rate in India, year-wise, from 2016 till date, including breakdowns by gender and urban/rural categories;
- (d) the total number of internet subscribers per 100 people in India (rural and urban households); and
- (e) the percentage of urban and rural households that own a computer?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): The NITI Aayog Report titled "Strategy for New India @75" inter-alia indicates that India needs to eliminate the Digital Divide by 2022-23. In this regard, it is stated that Skill development and creating skilled talent is an important mission to ensure that the growing digital economy of India is provided with the trained and skilled manpower that Industry requires. To further aid digital adoption, the Ministry has focused on digital literacy for citizens since 2014, across the country, especially in rural areas.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has taken the following initiatives to bridge the digital divide in the country:

- i. In the years 2014 to 2016, two Schemes titled "National Digital Literacy Mission" (NDLM) and "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (DISHA) were implemented by the Government with a target to train 52.50 lakh candidates in digital literacy across the country. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were certified.
- ii. In 2017, a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" was approved by Union Cabinet to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). So far, a total of around 5.78 crore candidates have been enrolled and 4.90 crore have been trained, out of which around 3.62 crore candidates have been certified under this scheme.

(c): As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 71<sup>st</sup> Round report released in June 2015 on social consumption relating to education, the gender-wise details for the age 14 years and above, the ability to operate computer in rural and urban areas was reported as under:

Proportion (per 1000) of population (age 14 years and above) able to operate a computer								
Gender	Rural				Urban			
	Age group (years)							
	14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above	14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Male	227	64	22	6	536	309	209	106
Female	135	19	5	1	438	173	87	28
persons	183	41	14	3	489	243	148	68

Further, the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted a survey on Household Social Consumption: Education as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey (NSS) from July 2017 to June 2018. As per the report, the gender-wise details of the person having ability to operate computer in the age groups mentioned below in rural and urban India are as under:

<b>Age group of the Person</b>	<b>% Able to operate a Computer</b>			
	<b>Rural</b>		<b>Urban</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
15-29 years	29.4	17.6	60.6	50.9
15-59 years	16.4	8.6	44.3	31.4

(d): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communication has informed that as per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” report published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, as on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 there were 37.67 rural internet subscribers per 100 population and 104.75 urban internet subscribers per 100 population.

(e): As per the NSO 75<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey (NSS) Report only 4.4% in rural households and 23.4% in urban households have a computer.

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