

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2639
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 18.03.2021

DIGITAL LITERACY RATE IN THE COUNTRY

2639. LT. GEN.(DR.)D.P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

- (a) the digital literacy rate in the country;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any survey to estimate the digital literacy level in the country and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;
- (c) if not, the time by when such survey is likely to be done; and
- (d) whether Government has undertaken any measures to educate the public about the benefits of digital literacy and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) to (c): National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) had published the 71st Round Survey Report titled 'Social Consumption - Education Survey 2014', which inter-alia covers IT Literacy. As per this report, the proportion of households in the Country having computer was found to be around 14% (only 6% of rural households and 29% of urban households possessed computer). Further, 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 and can operate computer) by types of ability to use a computer					
Rural			Urban		
Able to use computer word processing typing	Able to use internet for searching desired information	Able to use internet for sending e-mails	Able to use computer word processing typing	Able to use internet for searching desired information	Able to use internet for sending e-mails
234	218	193	840	809	758

(d): The various measures taken by the Government to educate the public about the benefits of digital literacy in the country are as under:

- 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 including rural India. Under these two schemes, a total of 53.67 lakh beneficiaries were trained and certified, out of which around 42% candidates were from rural India.
- ii. In February 2017, the Government of India approved a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2022. Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment System. So far,

more than 4.58 crore candidates have been enrolled and around 3.72 crore have been trained, out of which more than 2.73 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
