

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2102
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2020

DIGITAL LITERACY AND ACCESSIBILITY

2102. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the digital literacy and accessibility across the country is still low;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the reasons behind the low percentage of digital literacy across rural areas;
- (c) the steps that Government has been taking to increase digital awareness and accessibility in rural areas; and
- (d) the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has 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) able to operate a computer							
Rural				Urban			
Age group (years)							
14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above	14-29	30-45	46-60	60 and above
183	41	14	3	489	243	148	68

(c) and (d): The Government has taken following steps to increase digital awareness and accessibility in rural areas of the country:

- i. In the years 2014 to 2016, two Schemes entitled "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, 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). The Digital Literacy training is imparted by more than 2.55 lakh training centres across the rural areas of the country. Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of

Electronic Payment System. So far, more than 3.53 crore candidates have been enrolled and around 2.86 crore have been trained, out of which more than 2.11 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
