

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 390
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021

MOBILE SEVA APPSTORE

390. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

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

- (a) the details of Mobile Seva AppStore (MSA);
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are very less number of apps on MSA when compared to Google Play Store, Apple, etc.;
- (c) the efforts being made by the Ministry to make it mandatory for all the mobile phones manufactured in the country to pre-install Mobile Seva AppStore on Android OS;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken for creation of store for private apps; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Global Apps Market is valued at \$ 693 billions while India, through Digital India programme is seeking to be a player in Global apps market. The Digital India programme coupled with encouragement being given by the government to promote Indian innovators to create apps has of late become a big movement. Mobile Seva AppStore which is India's first indigenously developed Appstore came into existence in year 2013 with the vision of serving government departments by being a one stop platform for hosting all government apps. This AppStore has come a long way forward where current number of total live apps hosted on platform are more than 980 (as on 30th June 2021).

This mobile application (m-apps) store facilitates hosting of suitable applications which can be downloaded and installed on mobile devices, for delivery of public services through mobile devices. The uploading and downloading of apps is free of cost and hassle free. Only verified and signed APK files can be uploaded on the Appstore.

(c): For more outreach and ease of access amongst the citizens/users, MeitY has conducted various meetings as well as workshops with Indian OEM partners to discuss the way forward for making the Mobile Seva AppStore available as a pre-installed icon in mobile handsets for being a trusted source of apps.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. While the Government encourages government departments to host their public services mobile apps, the Mobile Seva Appstore has been recently opened to private players to host their public services mobile apps. This is also in line with achieving the objectives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat mission. In this regard, several workshops have been conducted to invite the private players for the hosting of their mobile apps.
