

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1679
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 13.02.2019

DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERCOMPUTERS

1679. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has inked a deal with foreign corporation to procure supercomputers for academic and research institutions, if so, the details thereof along with the financial details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to launch broadband services readiness index for States, if so, the details thereof along with the status of National Digital Communication Policy;
- (c) whether the Government has held discussions with WhatsApp officials for tracing the origins of misinformation spread through its messaging platform; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the strategy of the Government in case WhatsApp express its inability to trace the origin of misinformation.

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. C-DAC has made contract with M/s ATOS, a French multinational company as partner, after undergoing a tender process, for supply of subsystems required for supercomputers to be developed and installed by C-DAC at academic and research institutions under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

C-DAC is building systems in phased manner. In Phase-1 the subsystems supplied by M/s ATOS will be assembled in India and in Phase-2 the subsystems will be manufactured in India by M/s ATOS at manufacturing facility is at Chennai. In Phase-3, the subsystems will be designed indigenously by C-DAC and manufactured in India with the help of industry partners. The work for all three phases has started simultaneously. The System Software stack is indigenously developed by C-DAC for all three phases.

The order value for Phase-1 subsystems of three supercomputers (2.6 PF compute capacity), including Data Center cost, is Rs. 95.00 Crores plus GST. A rate contract for Phase-2 supply of subsystems (10PF compute capacity) for a period of 3 years is awarded to M/s ATOS, with a maximum value of Rs. 273.95 Crores plus applicable Taxes.

(b): Yes, Sir. The National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) – 2018 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 22nd October 2018 with a vision to support India's transition to a digitally

empowered economy and society. In order to attract investments and to address RoW challenges, NDCP aims to create broadband readiness index for States/UTs as one of its strategies.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. The Government had held discussion with WhatsApp officials for tracing the origin of identified misinformation spread through its messaging platform.

Government has also proposed to amend the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which, inter alia, proposes for tracing of origin of information. The draft of the proposed amendments has been uploaded on Ministry website inviting public comments.
