

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *109
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.02.2022

EFFICACY OF DIGITAL INDIA SCHEME

***109. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Digital India scheme has failed to impart digital literacy among the rural population by not even meeting half of its set target by 2021 and is also facing a fund crunch,
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has not done any evaluation of the Digital India scheme and is relying on a third party evaluation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NO. *109 FOR 11-02-2022 REGARDING EFFICACY OF DIGITAL INDIA SCHEME**

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched the 'Digital India' programme in 2014 with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. In summary, the mission is to ensure that the digital technologies improve the life of every citizen; expand India's digital economy, create employment and global digital technologies in the country.

The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas namely Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen, Governance and Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens. It is an umbrella programme and many of its achievements were responsible for the resilience of India during the recent global COVID pandemic. The programme covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs which inter-alia includes Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) Scheme which is aimed at delivering digital literacy in rural India. The programme has reduced the distance between Government and citizens significantly and also helped in the delivery of substantial services directly to the beneficiary in a transparent and corruption free manner.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is implementing PMGDISHA Scheme since February 2017, for ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households. So far, a total of Rs. 1488 crore has been released for implementation of the PMGDISHA Scheme. As on date, a total of around 5.56 crore candidates have been enrolled and 4.69 crore candidates have been trained, out of which 3.48 crore candidates have been duly certified under the said Scheme.

(c) and (d): Under Digital India programme, evaluation of the impact of all major schemes is generally carried out through an independent third party, which is not involved in the implementation of the Scheme to ensure fair independent assessment. The guidelines of the PMGDISHA scheme stipulates impact assessment study(ies) of the scheme through third party(ies). In line with these guidelines, the impact assessment studies of PMGDISHA scheme were conducted through Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi.
