

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3311
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.08.2023

PMGDISHA

3311. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan since 2017, only 9.36 lakh students have registered and 9.32 lakh students have completed their training in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of students trained and the steps being taken to raise further awareness about PMGDISHA and increase the number of registered and trained students, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that out of 9.36 lakh students, only 5.53 lakh students have actually been certified in the State;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the same and the steps being taken by the Government to redress this issue;
- (e) the manner in which the Government is redressing the problems in the scheme;
- (f) whether the Government has undertaken any study on the on-ground functioning of PMGDISHA, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) the details of the total number of people certified under the scheme as digitally literate, since its inception; and
- (h) the details of the total number of certifications and enrolments under the PMGDISHA scheme, District-wise especially in Nizamabad?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) and (g): India over the last 9 years has become a pre-eminent nation in deploying technologies for the benefit and transforming the lives of its citizens. Keeping this in view, the Government is focusing on providing digital literacy to the citizens across the country, especially in rural areas. In line with this, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was launched in February 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India with a target to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country. So far, a total of more than 7.04 crore candidates have been enrolled and 6.08 crore candidates have been trained, out of which 4.53 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme across the country. The State/UT wise status is at **Annexure I**.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, so far, more than 20.85 Lakh candidates have been enrolled and 17.09 Lakh candidates have been trained. Out of these, around 12.20 Lakh candidates have been duly certified. Further, in the state of Telangana, so far, more than 12.72 Lakh candidates have been enrolled and 10.36 Lakh candidates have been trained. Out of these, around 7.19 Lakh candidates have been duly certified.

The various steps taken to raise the awareness about PMGDISHA and to increase the number of registered and trained students including the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are as below:

- i. Scaling up the awareness and promotional activities towards Digital literacy through campaigns, workshops, seminars, digital vans, etc.
- ii. Some rural schools have been engaged for training and examination of candidates in order to cover the rural populous districts.
- iii. Various mechanisms have been adopted to disseminate information regarding the scheme to the intended beneficiaries such as word of mouth publicity, online, print & electronic media including posters, banners, radio, newspaper, television, social media etc.
- iv. The training content is made available on both online and offline mode.

(f): The PMGDISHA scheme has been assessed by three agencies till date namely IIT Delhi, Council for Social Development (CSD) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The last Impact Assessment study of the PMGDISHA scheme has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The findings of the IIPA impact evaluation report of the PMGDISHA Scheme are at **Annexure-II**.

(h): Under the PMGDISHA Scheme, in Nizamabad district of Telangana, so far, a total of 33,987 candidates have been enrolled and 14,095 candidates have been certified. The district wise status may be seen at <https://www.pmgdisha.in/students-count-list/>.

State/UT wise status of the PMGDISHAScheme

S. No.	State/UT	Registered	Trained	Certified
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	5,239	2,678	1,659
2	Andhra Pradesh	20,91,197	17,12,425	12,23,024
3	Arunachal Pradesh	8,471	5,856	3,908
4	Assam	27,07,602	23,47,991	18,65,471
5	Bihar	78,54,384	70,19,986	51,48,492
6	Chhattisgarh	25,04,227	21,55,181	16,29,755
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	15,734	12,374	8,974
8	Goa	58,569	53,784	40,000
9	Gujarat	29,03,805	25,54,363	18,83,647
10	Haryana	18,70,129	15,89,082	11,91,000
11	Himachal Pradesh	5,61,694	4,36,559	3,22,191
12	Jammu and Kashmir	7,93,086	6,31,090	4,57,982
13	Jharkhand	26,63,483	22,03,542	16,25,477
14	Karnataka	18,92,972	13,95,262	9,63,279
15	Kerala	91,798	44,634	32,829
16	Lakshadweep	142	35	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	57,27,927	51,00,915	37,84,166
18	Maharashtra	58,83,985	50,68,867	36,61,594
19	Manipur	26,615	17,063	11,067
20	Meghalaya	1,48,977	1,03,279	69,360
21	Mizoram	28,648	21,479	13,339
22	Nagaland	9,872	6,149	4,247
23	Odisha	35,34,929	29,99,545	22,73,614
24	Puducherry	22,002	15,861	11,068
25	Punjab	17,37,888	15,07,613	11,60,647
26	Rajasthan	41,93,428	36,52,200	26,74,858
27	Sikkim	25,842	22,166	16,233
28	Tamil Nadu	15,87,621	12,91,356	9,57,627
29	Telangana	12,75,226	10,37,527	7,19,891
30	Tripura	3,16,201	2,45,479	1,95,000
31	Uttarakhand	7,88,200	6,75,131	5,06,000
32	Uttar Pradesh	1,64,46,000	1,46,65,463	1,11,10,632
33	West Bengal	26,67,740	22,31,783	17,41,160
34	Ladakh	24,785	22,082	17,357
Total		7,04,68,418	6,08,48,800	4,53,25,548

***Chandigarh and Delhi are in urban agglomeration, hence not covered under the scheme.**

PMGDISHA Scheme: The findings of IIPA impact evaluation report are given below:

- PMGDISHA is an unique scheme due to its mass scale and use of remotely proctored examination.
- 18% fund used in SCSP, 12% for TSP and 11% for NER have made sure the empowerment of weaker sections.
- Women participation is very large and their inclusion at the rural level will open up the path for the learning of the whole family.
- More than 55% of respondents cited a direct benefit to their livelihoods after PMGDISHA training.
- Almost 50% respondents stated that PMGDISHA helped them get a better Job.
- More than 40% of respondents empowered 1-5 people, 22.8% were able to help 6-10 people, 12.9% were able to help 10-20 people with the knowledge from PMGDISHA.
- PMGDISHA training has had a formidable impact on the use of ICT and other forms of digital media.
- PMGDISHA has served the beneficiaries by facilitating their access to a wide range of information points and services for multitude of purposes. It has helped to decrease the overall digital divide in the country.
- COVID 19 has put an unprecedented situation of uncertainty even in rural India. Digital initiatives have made a lot of things function even in the time of complete lockdown. Right from the banking systems, e-governance systems and PDS were aided immensely because of the availability of online processes. People in the rural areas have continued with their livelihood with the help of digital systems helping procure their produce, doorstep financial services, information gathering among other thing using digital technologies. The need of programs like PMGDISHA has become a necessity in times of such paradigm shifts in new environments. Understanding digital tools & ICT and using them effectively is the need of the hour and has proved as the saviour for the current crisis in supporting economic and social activities.
