GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5323
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.04.2023

FEATURES OF PMGDISHA

5323. DR. CHANDRA SEN JADON:
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:
SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR

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

(a) the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA);
(b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under the said Abhiyan in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh during the last five years;
(c) the details of the candidates nominated, trained and certified under the said Abhiyan in Dharashiv (Osmanabad) district, Parbhani parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra and Firozabad parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh;
(d) whether any targets fixed, have been achieved and if not, the reasons therefor;
(e) the details of achievements made so far under the said abhiyan particularly in Parbhani and Firozabad parliamentary constituencies; and
(f) the steps taken by the Government to cover far flung and rural areas particularly of Dharashiv (Osmanabad), Parbhani and Firozabad parliamentary constituencies under the said abhiyan?

<div align="center">ANSWER</div>

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

(a): To enhance digital adoption, Government is focusing on providing digital literacy to the citizens across the country especially in the rural areas. In line with this, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was approved in February 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India. The main features of the PMGDISHA scheme are as under:

- *The scheme is being implemented only in rural areas i.e. Gram Panchayat/Village to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household).*
- *The beneficiaries are provided with 20 hours of training consisting of 5 modules namely (i) Introduction to Digital Devices, (ii) Operating Digital Devices, (iii) Introduction to the Internet, (iv) Communications using the Internet, (v) Application of the Internet (includes Citizen centric services) and use of financial tools for undertaking digital cashless transactions.*
- *The training content is made available in 22 scheduled languages and English. This content is made available on both online and offline mode. In addition, keeping in view the thrust of the government on promoting cashless transactions through mobile phones, the content on digital wallets, mobile banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), and PoS has also been included.*
- *After training of the candidate, a third party Assessment of the trained candidates is carried out through online mode remotely proctored examination conducted by recognized Certifying Agencies namely National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL) and ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT). Digitally*

Signed Certificates are issued for all successful candidates and directly uploaded in their Digi-Locker accounts.

- *For authorised Training Centres, a minimum Physical IT infrastructure along with a faculty at the training centre has been prescribed. Geo-tagging of the training centres have been implemented. Physical verification/inspection of the training centre is part of the process for training centre approval.*
- *State Level and District level committees are set up for effective evaluation and monitoring at the State & District levels.*
- *Dashboard access to Central/ State Govt./State Implementing Agency/District Administration have been provided for effective management and reporting.*
- *Grievances/Complaints Redressal Mechanism have been put in place.*

(b): Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) Scheme is funded as a Central Sector Scheme, hence funds are not sanctioned and allocated to States/UTs.

(c) and (e): In the Dharashiv (Osmanabad) district of Maharashtra, around 15,787 candidates have been enrolled and 12,759 candidates have been trained, out of which 7,059 candidates have been certified. In the Parbani district of Maharashtra, around 16,666 candidates have been enrolled and 12,317 candidates have been trained, out of which 8,217 candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.Further, in the Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh, around 33,200 candidates have been enrolled and 29,744 candidates have been trained, out of which 24,092 candidates have been certified under the said Scheme.

(d): The main objective of the scheme is to make 6 crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate, reaching to around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household. As of now, under the PMGDISHA Scheme, around 6.82 crore candidates have been enrolled and 5.88 crore have been trained, out of which 4.37 crore candidates have been certified.

(f) : The government has taken up various steps to cover far-flung and rural areas including the Gram Panchayats in Dharashiv (Osmanabad), Parbhani and Firozabad parliamentary constituencies under the said abhiyan, which include scaling up the awareness and promotional activities towards the Digital literacy program and expanding its multifold through campaigns, workshops, seminars, digital vans, etc. to cover various segments of the population in an all-inclusive manner. Efforts have been made to identify and register new Training centres in uncovered Gram Panchayats across the country. In order to address the low internet connectivity issues, Wifi-choupals have been established at remote locations. Rural schools have been engaged for training and examination of candidates in order to penetrate the rural populous districts of identified states.

******