

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3686**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.07.2019

**DIGITAL AWARENESS IN RURAL AREAS**

**3686. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to promote digital awareness in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has made any allocations for this purpose in the recent budget; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had implemented two schemes to increase digital awareness in rural areas of the country namely 'National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)' and 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)' with a cumulative target of training 52.5 lakh persons covering one person per household during year 2014-2016. Further, MeitY has initiated a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" in 2017 to usher in digital literacy among masses by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). Special focus of the PMGDISHA Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment System. The outcome measurement criteria include undertaking at least 5 electronic payments transactions by each beneficiary using UPI (including BHIM app), USSD, PoS, AEPS, Cards, Internet Banking. As on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019, a total of 2.35 crore candidates have been enrolled under PMGDISHA. Training has been imparted to 2.21 crore candidates and out of this more than 1.36 crore candidates have been certified.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 400 crore has been allocated for PMGDISHA scheme for Financial Year 2019-20.

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