

**4**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2024-25)**

**EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2024-25)**

**FOURTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*December, 2024/ Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)*

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(2024-25)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2024*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2024*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*December, 2024/ Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)*

**CCIT No. 405**

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**Composition of the Standing Committee on Communications and  
Information Technology (2024-25)**

**Dr. Nishikant Dubey - Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri C.N. Annadurai
3. Shri Anil Baluni
4. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
5. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
6. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer
7. Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav
8. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
9. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
10. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
11. Ms. Mahua Moitra
12. Shri G. Kumar Naik
13. Shri Shafi Parambil
14. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
15. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
16. Shri Radheshyam Rathiya
17. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
18. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
19. Shri Devesh Shakya
20. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
21. Shri Rajesh Verma

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri Saket Gokhale\*
23. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
24. Shri Ilaiyaraaja
25. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
26. Dr. Sasmit Patra
27. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
28. Shri S. Niranjan Reddy
29. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
30. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
31. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

**Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                 |
|----|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri Y. M. Kandpal  | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director        |
| 3. | Shri Salil Saroj    | - | Under Secretary |

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*Committee constituted w.e.f. 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 vide Para No.833 of Bulletin Part-II dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.*

*\* Shri Saket Gokhale has been nominated vide Para No. 853 of Bulletin Part –II dated 03<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.*

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25) was constituted on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for the year 2024-25 which were laid on the Table of the House on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2024. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

7. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

**New Delhi;**  
**16 December, 2024**  
**25 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)**

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Communications and Information Technology.**

## **Part-I** **Report**

### **I. Introductory**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is entrusted with the responsibility of formulation, implementation and review of national policies in the field of Information Technology, Electronics and Internet (all matters other than licensing of Internet Service Provider). The Ministry lead the vision of e-Development of India as the engine for transition into a developed nation and an empowered society. It carries the Mission of promoting e-Governance for empowering citizens, promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of the Electronics, IT & ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in Internet Governance, adopting a multipronged approach that includes development of human resources, promoting R&D and innovation, enhancing efficiency through digital services and ensuring a secure cyber space.

2. To operationalise the objectives of MeitY, schemes are formulated and implemented, directly or through its Responsibility Centers (Organizations/ Institutions) under its jurisdiction. Collaborations with the academia and the private / public sector is also sought to make the technology robust and State-of-the-Art.

3. MeitY has two Attached Offices (viz., NIC and STQC), eight Autonomous Societies [viz., CDAC (Pune), C-MET (Pune), NIELIT (New Delhi), SAMEER (Mumbai), STPI (New Delhi), ERNET India (New Delhi), Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG(N)) and Semi-Conductor Laboratory (Mohali)], four Section-8 companies [viz., NICS (PSE under control of NIC), National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Digital India Corporation (DIC) and National Institute for Smart Government (NISG)], three Statutory Organizations [viz. Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT) and Unique Identification authority of India (UIDAI)] and one Company registered under Companies Act, 1956 (viz. CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd.) under its charge to carry out the business allocated to the Ministry.

**II. Implementation status of the Recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of MeitY**

4. The Forty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology on the 'Demands for Grants' of MeitY for the year 2023-24 was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. Under Rule 34(1) of 'Rules of Procedure of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)', the Ministry/Department concerned is required to furnish a statement showing the action taken by them on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee within three months from the date of the presentation of the Report. The Fifty-second Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Forty-fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Out of the 15 recommendations of the Committee in their Fifty-second Report, 8 were accepted. Reply to 02 recommendations was not accepted by the Committee and was reiterated. 05 replies were interim in nature. The final Action Taken Statement on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-second Report is due to be laid in December, 2024.

**III. Budget Analysis**

**(i) Demands for Grants No. 27 of MeitY for the year 2024-25**

5. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last and current financial years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)						
Financial Year	Proposed	BE	RE	Actual Utilization	%age Utilization w.r.t. RE	%age Utilization w.r.t. BE
2023-24	21,564.42	16,549.04	14,421.25	12,847.09	89.08%	77.63%
2024-25	25,641.75	21,936.90	-	-	-	-

6. The proposed budgetary support for the year 2023-24 was Rs.21, 564.42 crore and the amount allocated at BE stage was Rs. 16,549.04 crore and the same was reduced to Rs. 14,421.25 crore at RE stage. The actual utilisation was Rs. 12,847.09 crore. During 2024-25, the proposed budgetary support was Rs. 25,641.75 crore and the amount allocated at BE stage was Rs. 21,936.90 crore. There has been a steep reduction in utilization w.r.t. BE (77.63%) during 2023-24.



7. When asked to explain the reasons for increase/decrease in allocation made at RE stage during the year 2023-24 and to state the actual expenditure under Revenue head during the year 2023-24 alongwith the reasons for increase/decrease in the actual utilization, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“There is a decrease in allocation of about Rs.2167.97 cr under Revenue Section in RE 2023-24 in view of budgetary cut by Ministry of Finance at RE stage. The budgetary cut was mainly due to transfer of “Promotion of Digital Payments” scheme to Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) and non-materialisation of anticipated expenditure in respect of “Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India” and PLI schemes”.

8. During evidence when the Committee sought reasons for the mismatch between the RE being Rs. 14,421 crore and Expenditure by the Ministry being only Rs. 12,847 crore in the Financial Year 2023-24, the Secretary submitted that:-

“इसमें दो-तीन रीज़न्स हैं। सरेंडर के मेन रीज़न्स में से एक है कि इंडिया सेमिकंडक्टर मिशन में उनका जब क्लेम आता है, तब ही हम दे पाते हैं। उनका क्लेम हमने जितना एंटिसिपेट किया था, उतना उन्होंने नहीं दिया। ऐसे ही पीएलआई प्रोग्राम में भी होता है। जैसे-जैसे कंपनीज़ क्लेम देती हैं, ये आइटम्स ऑफ़ एक्सपेंडिचर के दो मेजर आइटम्स हैं, उसमें जब उनका क्लेम नहीं आता है, तो हम डिस्बर्स नहीं कर पाते हैं। हमारे कंट्रोल में जो मेन स्कीम है, वह डिजिटल इंडिया प्रोग्राम है। And in that, we manage to spend a substantial portion of the Budget that is allocated. Surrenders mainly come in the PLI, the electronics manufacturing and production-linked incentive scheme and in the semi-conductor programme क्योंकि इनीशियली बजट में काफी पैसा एलोकेट होता है। Later on, when the private companies are not able to spend and they are not able to file claims, then there is a surrender”.

9. The Secretary clarifying about cyber security and cyber crime as subjects, deposited before the Committee as:

“Recently, the Allocation of Business Rules have also been amended to give cyber security as a subject. It has been allocated to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. So, the emphasis on this area is going to be more”.

10. The Secretary further added that:-

“पहले यह किसी को एलोकेटिड नहीं था। इसको क्लैरिफाई किया गया कि साइबर सिक्योरिटी को मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ़ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड इनफॉर्मेशन टैक्नोलॉजी द्वारा देखा जाएगा और साइबर क्राइम होम मिनिस्ट्री द्वारा देखा जाएगा। ऐसे इसे split-up किया गया है।”

(ii) **Revenue Section**

11. The budgetary allocation to the Ministry during the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 is as under:-

	<b>Actuals (2022-23)</b>	<b>BE (2023-24)</b>	<b>RE (2023-24)</b>	<b>Actuals (2023-24) (as on 31.03.2024)</b>	<b>BE (2024-25)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	8943.68	16,180.36	14,012.39	12,457.46	21,355.89
<b>Capital</b>	276.60	368.68	408.86	389.63	581.01
<b>Total</b>	9220.28	16,549.04	14,421.25	12,847.09	21,936.90

12. The Ministry, while furnishing the reasons for variation between BE 2023-24 and BE 2024-25 under the Revenue Head, submitted as under:-

“The revenue provision in BE 2023-24 has been increased by Rs.5387.86 cr than that of in BE 2023-24. The increased provision in BE 2024-25 is mainly due to increased allocations of Rs.5458 crore made for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India. It is worth-mentioning that Government of India has allocated this increased provision to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phones and specified electronic components and IT hardware as well as to provide attractive incentive support to companies or consortia that are engaged in Silicon Semiconductor Fabs, Display Fabs, Compound Semiconductors, Silicon Photonics, Sensors, including MEMS, Fabs, Discrete Semiconductor Fabs, Semiconductor Packaging, ATMP or OSAT and Semiconductor Design”.

(iii) **Capital Section**

13. When the Ministry was asked about the reasons for increase/decrease in the allocations made at RE stage during 2023-24, the Ministry informed that:

“The capital provision was increased by Rs.40.18 crore in RE 2023-24. This provision was increased to meet the additional expenditure for machinery and equipment in respect of CERT-In and finishing of construction work of STQC Centre in Noida”.

14. For the variations between BE 2023-24 and BE 2024-25 under the Capital Head, the Ministry submitted that:-

“The capital provision in BE 2024-25 has been increased by Rs.212.33 cr from that of provided in BE 2023-24. The variation was due to projection of more funds by NIC for upgradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipment for cyber security initiatives by NIC for setting up of Security Operation Centres and security audit of all ICT assets of Ministry”.

15. Scheme-wise details of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure from 2021-22 to 2023-24 and BE for 2024-25 as furnished by the Ministry is as under:-

S. No.	Scheme/Non-Schemes	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25	
		BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	Proposed	BE
1	Secretariat (MeitY)	109.33	104.07	94.38	109.82	140.00	128.94	140.00	145.00	152.73	154.00	175.00
2	National Informatic Centre (NIC)	1400.00	1400.00	1353.43	1450.00	1463.45	1390.71	1527.26	1552.00	1406.19	1840.00	1748.64
3	Regulatory Authorities	345.00	336.21	300.30	344.00	311.00	296.26	373.50	377.50	396.68	484.00	429.00
3.1	STQC Programme	120.00	114.91	102.05	120.00	120.00	110.33	135.50	157.00	136.37	220.00	175.00
3.2	Cyber Security (CERT-In), NCCC & Data Governance	216.00	213.30	193.70	215.00	180.00	176.50	225.00	208.00	249.28	250.00	238.00
3.3	Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA)	9.00	8.00	4.55	9.00	11.00	9.43	13.00	12.50	11.03	14.00	14.00
3.4	Data Protection Board											2.00
	<b>SCHEMES</b>											
4	Digital India Programme	6806.33	6388.00	4504.36	5376.18	5400.50	3863.13	4795.24	4428.01	4174.12	5592.75	4768.26
4.1	Electronic Governance incl. EAP	425.00	535.00	312.39	525.00	525.00	216.32	555.74	588.00	571.64	700.00	650.00
4.2	Manpower Development	400.00	400.00	272.26	350.00	250.00	78.64					
4.3	National Knowledge Network	500.00	500.00	500.00	650.00	485.25	323.26	352.00	582.00	581.94	700.00	240.26
4.4	Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters)	2631.32	2014.00	1193.02	2403.00	1199.00	634.03	700.00	700.00	694.27	970.00	750.00
4.5	Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries	150.00	100.00	69.80	100.00	89.25	66.08	150.00	120.00	115.76	150.00	130.00
4.6	Cyber Security Projects	200.00	339.00	310.51	300.00	100.00	30.11	400.00	400.00	316.51	759.00	759.00
4.7	R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT	700.00	700.00	502.04	598.17	365.00	275.07	600.00	1000.00	877.09	1200.00	1148.25
4.8	PMGDISHA	300.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00					
4.9	Promotion of Digital Payments (Renamed as Promotion of Digital Transactions w.e.f. 1.4.2024)	1500.00	1500.00	1044.34	200.00	2137.00	1989.62	1500.00	584.00	582.75	2.00	1.50
4.10	Champion Service Sector Scheme	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00					
4.11	Capacity Building and Skill Development Scheme							537.50	454.01	434.16	560.00	537.50
4.12	IndiaAI Mission										551.75	551.75
5	<b>Other Central Sector Schemes/Projects</b>				5300.00	2403.00	1667.95	7645.04	6063.24	4965.51	15349.00	13103.00
5.1	Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India					200.00	13.00	3000.00	1503.36	681.11	6903.00	6903.00

5.2	Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)				5300.00	2203.00	1654.95	4645.04	4559.88	4284.40	8446.00	6200.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Assistance to Autonomous and Other Bodies</b>	<b>1060.00</b>	<b>1352.97</b>	<b>2003.80</b>	<b>1720.00</b>	<b>2002.00</b>	<b>1873.29</b>	<b>2068.00</b>	<b>1855.50</b>	<b>1751.86</b>	<b>2222.00</b>	<b>1713.00</b>
6.1	Centre for Dev. of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)	200.00	217.00	217.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	300.00	270.00
6.2	Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET)	80.00	78.00	60.00	100.00	100.00	62.31	110.00	100.00	83.02	120.00	110.00
6.3	Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engg & Research (SAMEER)	120.00	116.00	116.00	150.00	140.00	131.39	160.00	150.00	150.00	170.00	160.00
6.4	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	600.00	884.97	1564.80	1110.00	1110.00	1219.65	940.00	800.00	800.00	1029.00	600.00
6.5	Digital India Corporation (DIC)	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	6.08	11.00	13.00	15.00	13.00	13.00
6.5	Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Information	50.00	48.00	37.00	100.00	72.00	0.00	44.00	29.50	23.90	20.00	20.00
6.6	Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)					320.00	203.86	533.00	493.00	409.94	570.00	540.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9720.66</b>	<b>9581.25</b>	<b>8256.27</b>	<b>14300.00</b>	<b>11719.95</b>	<b>9220.28</b>	<b>16549.04</b>	<b>14421.25</b>	<b>12847.09</b>	<b>25641.75</b>	<b>21936.90</b>

**16.** While submitting the reasons for variations from BE to RE during 2023-24 and also furnishing information about the schemes which had major shortfalls in achieving the targets during 2023-24, the Ministry stated:-

“There is a reduction in allocation of Rs.2127.79 cr at RE stage. A sum of Rs.1496.64 crore was identified as savings under “Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India Schemes” at RE stage due to non-receipt of anticipated claims and delayed approval of projects under this scheme. Further, MeitY had to surrender a sum of Rs.916 crore at RE stage out of the earmarked budget under “Promotion of Digital Payments” scheme in BE 2023-24 due to transfer of this scheme to Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services)”.

**17.** Explaining the reasons for the difference in allocation of funds at BE stage for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the schemes, the Ministry stated as under:-

“The BE allocation in 2024-25 in respect of Schemes have been raised by Rs.5430.98 cr (from Rs.12440.28 crore in BE 2023-24 to Rs.17871.26 cr in BE 2024-25). The difference in allocation of funds is mainly due to increased allocations made for the incentive schemes, viz., Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India as well as budget provisions earmarked for the new scheme “IndiaAI Mission”.

**18.** About the schemes which had been prioritized during the year 2024-25, the Committee were apprised as under:-

“During the FY 2024-25, MeitY will prioritize on proliferation and absorption of emerging technology and creating essential R&D infrastructure and scientific & technical human capital by supporting the R&D projects. Another area of importance for MeitY is cyber security projects in view of increasing digital

transactions. Focus will also be made for enhancing capability of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) as well as for timely disbursement of incentives under PLI schemes”.

(iv) **Position of Outstanding UCs and unspent Balances with States’ implementing agencies**

19. On outstanding UCs and unspent Balances, the Ministry has submitted the following details (as on 30th September, 2024):-

	<b>Amount (Rs. in crore)</b>	<b>No. of UCs</b>
Utilisation Certificates due	33.37	5
Unspent Balances for which UCs are not due	4983.08	1175
<b>Total Unspent Balance with implementing Agencies</b>	<b>5016.45</b>	<b>1180</b>

20. While furnishing the information regarding the measures taken by the Ministry for timely submission of UCs by the States/implementing agencies, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The following measures are being taken by the Ministry for timely submission of UCs by the grantee bodies and these measures are proving to be fruitful in moving towards zero pending UC and minimum unspent balance:

- MeitY is monitoring/reviewing implementation status of schemes/projects from time to time to ensure smooth implementation of various projects which further ensures that the grants released by MeitY are being utilized in a proper and productive manner.
- Secretary and Financial Adviser (MeitY) review the UC status from time to time to ascertain utilization status of released grants to various agencies.
- With the implementation of Revised Procedure for Flow of Funds (w.e.f. 01.04.2022), actual utilization of funds at the Sub-Agency level is being monitored through PFMS.
- Grantee bodies are released grants in installments for implementation of various projects, taking into consideration the unspent balances with them.
- Project Review and Steering Committee (PRSG) monitors and evaluates the project progress and utilization of the funds as per approval and make recommendations for release of financial assistance.

21. Further, it was added:-

“The liquidation status of pending UCs as on 1.4.2023, 31.03.2024 and 30.09.2024 as given below is an indication of fruitful measures being taken by MeitY to reduce the pending UCs and thereby heading towards zero pending UC”.

	As on 01.04.2023	As on 31.03.2024	As on 30.09.2024	Difference/ Liquidated (As on 30.09.2024)	% of Liquidation
<b>Number of pending UCs</b>	257	20	5	252	98%
<b>Pending Amount (Rupees in crore)</b>	1040.52	62.13	33.37	1007.15	97%

22. When asked about the new measures envisaged by the Ministry during the year 2024-25 for reducing the number of pending UCs and ensuring accountability of implementing agencies, the Ministry merely reiterated their submission made above.

#### **IV. National Informatics Centre (NIC)**

23. NIC which was established under MeitY is the technology partner of the Government of India. It was established in 1976 with the objective of providing technology-driven solutions to Central and State Governments. The mandate of NIC was to be the technology partner of the Government, design and develop IT Systems for the Government, provide ICT Infrastructure to the Government and explore and advise on use of Emerging Technologies. Since its inception, NIC has been a driving force for digital advancements that promotes sustainable development. With over 47 years of experience, NIC has played a crucial role in providing support for ICT and e-Governance. Through the creation of NICNET, the ICT Network, NIC has established connections with Central Government Ministries/Departments, 36 State Governments/UTs, and more than 758 District administrations in India, aligning itself with the goals of the Digital India program. NIC National Cloud (MeghRaj) currently hosts critical applications on over 24,900 virtual servers, supporting over 1690 e-Governance Users/Applications as part of Digital India. NIC's video conferencing service aids Government officials in remote and effective communication. NIC has utilized cutting-edge technologies like Cloud, Mobile Apps, Data Analytics, Business Intelligence (BI), Advanced Geographic Information System (GIS), Block chain and AI to develop user-friendly e-Governance products/applications. According to the Ministry, the establishment of Centres of Excellence further strengthened the country's digital infrastructure, contributing significantly to the upcoming decade's digital transformation.

24. The BE provided for the year 2024-25 is Rs. 1748.64 crore. The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure in respect of National Informatics Centre (NIC) from 2021-22 onwards is as under:

(Rs. In crore)				
Financial Year	Proposed	BE	RE	Actuals
2021-22	1700.00	1400.00	1400.00	1353.43
2022-23	1500.00	1450.00	1463.45	1390.71
2023-24	1600.00	1527.26	1552.00	1406.21
2024-25	1840.00	1748.64	-	-

25. Regarding the functions and targets of NIC, the Ministry apprised the Committee that the National Knowledge Network (NKN) aimed to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research by inter-connecting all knowledge institutions across the Country through a high-speed data communication network. As of now, there are total 1796 institutes under NKN with 96 core links and 620 district links. Meghraj' (GI Cloud) initiative aims to accelerate the delivery of e-services in the Country and optimize the government's ICT spending by harnessing the benefits of Cloud Computing. As a part of this initiative, over 1830 Govt. Cloud accounts and more than 26,530 Virtual Machines (VMs) have been allocated and it has more than 6000 Websites/ Portals.

26. NIC has also been responsible for country-wide implementation of various e-Governance projects including many Mission Mode Projects of the Department. Jeevan Pramaan Portal, e-Shram, e-Challan, e-Invoice system, One Nation One Card, PM Kisan, e-Hospital, e-Office, National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), e-Courts, Case Information System (CIS), National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) , e-Filing 3.0, National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), Digital Sansad etc are some of the major ICT initiatives taken up by NIC.

27. While elaborating the reasons for increase/decrease in allocation from BE to RE during 2023-24, the Ministry stated as under:-

“During 2023-24 the RE provision was increased by Rs.24.74 Crore. In Revenue Section Rs.12.19 Crore was increased for the payment of leased line, FMS etc and Capital Section Rs. 12.55 Crore for Procurement of ICT Equipment”.

28. In respect of the gap between the amount proposed and allocation made at BE during 2024-25 and how the Ministry would ensure adequate availability of funds during 2024-25, the Ministry has stated:-

“The funds allocated for NIC is adequate. However, in case of any additional requirement of more funds, Department would ensure availability of the same for NIC”.

29. The Ministry has furnished the following details when asked about the total users of e-Office, NIC email and Sandes messaging app and the steps being taken to promote the usage of these tools:-

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>e-Office users*</b>	<b>5,48,170</b>	<b>4,81,650</b>	<b>8,75,912</b>	<b>13,35,560</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>NIC email users</b>	<b>27 Lakhs</b>	<b>31 lakhs</b>	<b>32.8 Lakhs</b>	<b>36 Lakhs</b>	<b>54 lakhs (Expected)</b>
<b>Sandes Messaging App users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly added Sandes Messaging App users :<b>4,23,950</b></li> <li>E-gov apps integrated with Sandes (Newly Added):<b>26</b></li> </ul> <b>Total Users : 4,28,568</b> <b>Total Apps Integrated: 44</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly added Sandes Messaging App users :<b>12,38,382</b></li> <li>E-gov apps integrated with Sandes (Newly Added):<b>13</b></li> </ul> <b>Total Users : 16,66,950</b> <b>Total Apps Integrated: 180</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly added Sandes Messaging App users: <b>6,48,277</b></li> <li>E-gov apps integrated with Sandes (Newly Added): <b>101</b></li> </ul> <b>Total Users : 23,15,227</b> <b>Total Apps Integrated: 281</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly added Sandes Messaging App users: <b>9,16,295</b></li> <li>E-gov apps integrated with Sandes (Newly Added): <b>53</b></li> </ul> <b>Total Users : 32,31,522</b> <b>Total Apps Integrated: 334</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly added Sandes Messaging App users: <b>3,39,819</b></li> <li>E-gov apps integrated with Sandes (Newly Added): <b>16</b></li> </ul> <b>Total Users : 35,71,341</b> <b>Total Apps Integrated: 350</b>

\*The above counts have been provided, based on the data available for the organizations hosted in eOffice Cloud at National Data Centre, Shastri Park (NDC-SP) and XML Reports received from the organizations which are hosted locally in that particular year. On few occasions, some organisations do not share the XML



**30.** Further, regarding the steps taken to promote the usage of the above tools, the Ministry has submitted the following:-

**“Steps taken to promote the usage of eOffice**

- a. National Level workshops are conducted by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) across the country.
- b. Regular Capability Building Programmes (CBP) on eOffice for Ministries / Departments are being organized by NIC / NICSI.
- c. Various training programmes / workshop on eOffice are also being organized at premier Institutes of Government of India such as Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF), Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), etc.

**Steps taken to promote the usage of Sandes Messaging App**

1. Presentation and on boarding of various Departments and organizations on Sandes across various Ministries and States.
2. Enhancements as per the feedback received.
3. Training and demo provided to departments on Sandes”.

**31.** The Ministry in a written submission have stated that the Capital provision in BE 2024-25 has been increased by Rs.212.33 crore from that provided in BE 2023-24 due to projection of more funds by NIC for upgradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipment for cyber security initiatives by NIC for setting up of Security Operation Centres and security audit of all ICT assets of Ministry. On being asked about the status of the above mentioned upgradations, the Ministry submitted as below:-

“NIC is trying best for utilizing the funds allocated for up-gradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipment for cyber security, for setting up of Security Operation Centres and security initiatives during the Financial Year 2024-25”.

**32.** The Committee desired to know to what extent the objectives and targets of NIC earmarked for the year 2023-24 were achieved and if there were any problems faced in achieving those objectives. Further, targets and the initiatives taken by the Ministry to counter them in the ensuing Financial Year of 2024-25 was also sought. To this, the Ministry has submitted as under:-

“The funds earmarked for the year 2023-24 were incurred to the maximum as per requirement and all the objectives and targets completed timely. No problem was faced by NIC for achieving those objectives”.

**33.** To a pointed query of the Committee to explain the rules made by NIC regarding E-mails and passwords, the Secretary deposing before the Committee submitted that:-

“The username and password is entirely a personal thing. If somebody lends the username and password, it means that he is doing this on his own responsibility”.

**34.** Replying to another query of the Committee, the Secretary submitted:-

“Each device has to be specifically authorized to sign in. In case of our NIC email, we have now moved towards VPN base system where a specific tunnel is created. Even if I have to log in, I have to go through this specific tunnel. Even though I have it on multiple devices, I have to sign in separately in each device”.

**35.** The Secretary further added that:-

“It is a security feature. These are some more of the digital public infrastructure which have been developed through NIC and other agencies of MeitY and extensively used through various other agencies. This is just an example to know the extent to which digital public service has been extended”.

## **V. Regulatory Authorities**

### **(i) Standard Testing and Quality Certification (STQC)**

**36.** Standard Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, an attached office of MeitY, Government of India, provides Quality Assurance services in the area of Electronics and IT. Through an extensive network of laboratories and centers located across the Country, STQC excels in providing a diverse range of services such as Testing, Calibration, IT & e-Governance, Certification, and Capacity Building to Public as well as Private organizations.

STQC has earned a distinguished reputation as a pioneer in the nation, particularly in the field of Quality Management System (QMS, ISO 9001), Information Security Management System (ISMS, ISO 27001), and Information Technology Service Management (ITSM, ISO 20000) certifications. The labs and centers under STQC maintain National and International accreditations and recognition in the field of e-Governance, Testing, Calibration, Training, and Certification services.

In the domain of IT & e-Governance, STQC extends its expertise by delivering Software Products/Systems and Process Assurance Services and also working on various

emerging area of technology such as Common criteria, IoT etc. The spectrum of activities includes Testing, Audit, Training, and Certification.

Operational across the nation, STQC's extensive network comprises Electronics Regional Test Laboratories (ERTLs), Electronics Testing and Development Centres (ETDCs), and IT Centers. Additionally, specialized centers such as the Centre for Reliability (CFR) and the Indian Institute of Quality Management (IIQM) play pivotal roles in providing targeted training programs related to reliability and quality services, respectively.

Over the course of the last 4½ decades, STQC has firmly established itself as a pioneer in Testing, Calibration, IT & e-Governance, Training, and Certification. Its influence extends to offering nationwide support to a diverse array of organizations, including Public and Private entities, Startups, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The illustrious clientele served by STQC includes: Ministries, Departments, State Governments, R&D organizations (DRDO, ISRO), Defence establishments (Indian Army, Navy, Airforce), Telecom authorities (DoT, TRAI), Power entities (Power Grid, CPRI), Railway bodies (Indian Railways & Metro Rail), PSUs (IOC, NTPC, Coal India, BHEL, SAIL), Recruitment agencies (SSC, State Bodies), Statutory Bodies (e.g., BIS, UIDAI, Cert-In), and many more.

**37.** The Ministry submitted the following while providing an overview of STQC:

“The STQC's vision and objective is mentioned below:

- Support Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's initiatives in the key areas like e-Government, e-Industry , e-Innovation / R&D , e-Learning, e-Security, e-Inclusion, Internet Governance through Quality & Security evaluations of IT systems and other projects of national importance.
- Formulation of e-Governance Standards/Guidelines/Frameworks in emerging areas/technologies.
- Become a key player in national measurement assurance system by providing test & calibration facilities in emerging technologies
- Providing accredited certification services for processes and products for global compliance
- Capacity building in the area of services being offered.
- Continuously improving efficiency and effectiveness of STQC processes.

**38.** The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year are as under:-

	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>				
	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	200.00	200.00	157.00	139.50	220.00
<b>BE</b>	125.00	120.00	120.00	135.50	175.00
<b>RE</b>	114.00	114.91	120.00	157.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	99.14	102.06	110.33	136.37	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	87	89	92	87	-

39. Regarding the details of physical targets at BE and RE stage and achievements made during 2023-24, the Ministry informed the Committee as under:-

“STQC has been allocated funds amounting to Rs. 157 Cr during the FY 2023-24 with major component i.e. Rs. 87.00 Cr under the object head “Salary” for meeting the establishment related expenditure pertaining to various Labs/Centre of STQC Directorate and Rs.30 Crore for construction of the STQC Building. Further, STQC do not implement any scheme/project”.

40. When asked about the targets set during 2024-25 and measures being taken to achieve the same, the Ministry has stated that:-

“Approx. 150 S&T and Non-S&T candidates are to be recruited in upcoming year on Direct recruitment basis. The vacancies have already been forwarded to NIELIT and SSC. Whereas, approx. 80 S&T and Non-S&T employees were recruited in last one year on direct recruitment basis. Further, 07 candidates were appointed on compassionate ground. Provision made for required funds under the Object Head “Salaries” in BE for the FY 2024-25. Further, as regards, construction of STQC Building at Sector, 62, Noida, Structure Stability test has already been completed and CPWD is in the process of tendering. CPWD schedule to complete the building by November, 2025. STQC Lab automation project is planned. New STQC Website to comply with GIGW 3.0 is under development”.

41. Enumerating the impediments being encountered and measures taken to address them along with the present status of functioning of STQC, the Ministry informed the Committee as follows:-

“The Major impediment being faced by STQC is shortfall in the Manpower due to retirements. STQC has taken steps to recruit the fresh Manpower and is likely to materialize in year 2024-25. Further STQC is also in the process of seeking exemption from “Make in India” in GFR for high value procurements.

**Present Status of functioning of STQC:**

Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, provides quality assurance services in the area of Electronics and IT through countrywide network of laboratories and centres. The services include Testing, Calibration, IT & e-governance quality assurance, Training and Certification having National / International accreditation and recognitions in the area of testing and calibration.

Besides a network of 4 ERTLs and 11 ETDCs which are primarily engaged in testing and calibration services, STQC has specialized institutions such as Indian Institute of Quality Management (IIQM) for quality related training programmes and Centre for Reliability (CFR) for reliability related services.

42. Outlining the achievements made, the Ministry made the following submissions:-

- “STQC IT centres have successfully executed testing and assessment of the number of e-Governance, Defence, Space and IT Projects of Central and State Governments.
- STQC laboratories have provided test and calibration services to a large number of industry, public sector undertakings and Government organisations. Test & Calibration services of ETDC Guwahati & ETDC Agartala are extended to the organizations in NE region towards improvement of quality of their products and services. The services are received by most of the MSME industries.
- Common Criteria Security Test/ Evaluation Laboratory(s) as well as a Certification Scheme based on Common Criteria standard have been established and are operational. UIDAI has mandated use of Registered Devices for Biometric authentication, its Hardware and RD services of the Registered Devices are certified by STQC.
- Website Quality Certification Scheme based upon national and International standards / best practices aims to help in hardening of websites from wide range of Security threats, increasing Accessibility, assuring commitment to services and ensuring compliance to the requirements of Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW). Based on directions of Cabinet Secretariat 88 websites are taken on no cost basis and successfully completed CQW Certification of 67 Websites pertaining to various Ministries and Departments of Govt. of India.
- STQC is also entrusted to evaluate the cyber security of Smart cities which is taken up based on the directions of Cabinet Secretariat. First cycle of Cyber Security Validation of Smart City has been completed for 58 Smart Cities and remaining is in progress.
- Further, STQC is also involved in testing of Electronic Voting machines and VVPAT.
- Indian Institute of Quality Management provides training to industries and organizations in the area of Quality Management System (ISO/IEC: 9001), Laboratory Quality Management System (ISO/IEC: 17025), Information Security Management System (ISMS) (ISO/IEC: 27001).
- STQC has established and operating 3rd party independent Certification schemes for industry and Government departments namely:
  - Quality Management System (QMS) as per ISO: 9001 standard,
  - Information Security Management System (ISMS) as per ISO: 27001 standard,
  - Product Safety Certification (S-mark) as per applicable ISO/IEC/IS standard.

43. Further, it was added that:-

- “In addition to these certification schemes, STQC also provided support to its Ministry (MeitY) for Assurance activities in the area of Compulsory Registration Order (CRO), e-Procurement System, Digital Forensic labs as ‘Examiner of Electronic Evidence’ (Section 79 of IT Act) and empanelment of Cloud Service Provider(s). STQC clientele includes organizations like UIDAI, DRDO, ISRO, BHEL, IOCL, CAMS, DGSL, and Hero MotorCorps etc.
- Launching of Data Centres Certification Scheme is also planned.
- STQC along with existing mandate has been given additional responsibility of taking up validation of CCTV under PPO/CRS Scheme of MeitY.
- STQC is also planning to establish CMVP & SCA Test facility.
- Procurement of environmental test facilities for 11 centres is in progress. Remaining test facilities such as EMI/EMC, safety, smart energy meter are proposed to be procured in this year.
- Process of filling up of 78 post of Scientific Assistants is underway. Further 76 Group ‘C’ (Technical) recruitment is in process. Moreover, recruitment of 5 Staff car drivers have been completed in addition to recruitment of 24 Scientist “C” and 4 Scientist “D”.

**(ii) Cyber Security (CERT-in), NCCC & Data Governance**

44. CERT-In is a Government organisation under MeitY, Government of India. It has been designated to serve as National agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. It operates 24x7 incident response Help Desk for providing timely response to reported cyber security incidents. It provides Incident Prevention and Response services as well as Security Quality Management Services. It performs the following functions in the area of cyber security:

- a. Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber security incidents
- b. Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
- c. Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
- d. Coordination of cyber security incident response activities
- e. Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents
- f. Such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed.

45. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year are as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	60.00	500.00	500.00	250.00	250.00
<b>BE</b>	140.00	216.00	215.00	225.00	238.00
<b>RE</b>	90.00	213.30	180.00	208.00	
<b>Actual</b>	91.73	193.69	176.50	249.28	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	102	91	98	120	

**46.** On Cyber Security (CERT-in), NCCC & Data Governance, the Ministry has inter-alia submitted that:-

“The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to serve as the national agency in the area of cyber security incident response.

CERT-In is operating an automated cyber threat exchange platform for proactively collecting, analysing and sharing tailored alerts with organisations across sectors for proactive threat mitigation actions by them.

In addition, CERT-In has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) for countering cyber-attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments/UTs and organizations under their administrative control. Along with the CCMP, CERT-In has developed “Guidance Framework for CCMP” which may be used as a template by various entities including Central Government Ministries/Departments/States/ UTs and entities under their administrative control to prepare & implement their own CCMP.

CERT-In has also setup State-of-the Art Cyber Forensic lab to support incident response operation of CERT-In as well as the needs of various Law Enforcement agencies. The Cyber Forensics Laboratory at the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been notified as 'Examiner of Electronic Evidence' under section 79A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

CSIRT-Fin has been established and is operational since 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. CERT-In is providing the requisite leadership for the CERT-Fin operations under its umbrella.

To deal with the complex, sophisticated cyber-attacks, sharing and exchange of threat intelligence, CERT-In partners with overseas counterpart agencies as well as cyber security organizations from industry that are willing to work together and share information in a timely manner for preventing cyber-attacks as well as collaborating for providing swift response to cyber security incidents.

Cyber Swachhta Kendra is a citizen centric service provided by CERT-In, which extends the vision of Swachh Bharat to the Cyber Space. Cyber Swachhta Kendra was launched on 21st February, 2017 as part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Cyber Swachhta Kendra aims to secure India's digital IT Infrastructure by creating a dedicated mechanism for providing timely information about Botnet/Malware threats to the victim organizations/users and suggesting remedial actions to be taken by the concerned entity. The centre provides free tools for removal of botnet/malware infections and securing computers and mobile devices for organizations and users.

CERT-In has setup National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective

actions by individual entities. The phase I of NCCC has been operationalized in July 2017. The centre is being augmented with integration of metadata from remote sites and ISP gateways”.

**47.** When the Committee wanted to know the major impediments that were being encountered and the measures taken by the Ministry to address them along with the present status of functioning, the Ministry submitted:-

“The major impediments being encountered and measures to address them as well as the achievements made are briefed below:

Impediments:

CERT-In is in urgent need of additional manpower to keep up with the rapid increase in the incidents and cyber security issues, urgent nature of incident response activities including onsite response, to sustain key current as well as planned new activities / projects and to address cyber security issues pertaining to emerging technologies and areas.

To address the challenge, CERT-In has moved a proposal for creation of additional posts at various levels. The proposal has been examined at Department of Expenditure and certain details were sought by them. The requisite details were prepared and the proposal has been resubmitted to Department of Expenditure for consideration.

**48.** On the achievements made in this regard, the Ministry inter-alia submitted that:-

“a) In the year 2023, CERT-In handled 15,92,917 incidents. Remedial measures for handling incidents were suggested and implemented in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

b) A total of 657 security alerts, 52 advisories and 397 Vulnerability Notes were issued during the year 2023.

c) CERT-In conducted 26 cyber security training and awareness programs for Government, Public and Critical Sector organisations and communication & Information infrastructure providers to educate them in the area of Information Security with the latest security threats, needs and developments & deployment of techniques and tools in order to minimize security risk. A total number of 10074 personnel were trained during year 2023.

d) CERT-In conducted 18 domestic cyber exercises & drills and contributed & participated in 04 International cyber security drills in 2023.

e) CERT-In is listed as “Task Force for CSIRT - Trusted Introducer” thereby demonstrating certain level of maturity and functionality to build trust throughout the global CERT community

f) Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK - Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) detects malware infections and enables citizens for cleaning their systems with



free of cost tools to citizens and organizations. The center covers about 94% of Indian internet users as well as 713 organizations across sectors.

g) The Cyber Forensics Laboratory at the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been notified as 'Examiner of Electronic Evidence' under section 79A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and supporting investigation of cyber security incidents and cybercrimes, submitted by central and state government ministries / departments, public sector organisations and Law Enforcement agencies.

h) CERT-In conducted G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill on 31 January 2023 for 400 Participants including international participants from more than 12 countries and domestic participants from across sectors.

m) Cyber Security Exercise for Banking Sector under India's G20 Presidency was jointly conducted by CERT-In and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 5th June 2023, for more than 200 participants from International Monetary Fund, Bank for International Settlements, Central Banks and Computer Emergency Response Teams of G20 Member Countries, MD & CEOs of select Commercial and Urban Cooperative Banks, Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) of Indian and Foreign Banks".

## VI. Digital India Programme

49. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year in respect of Digital India Programme as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	6940.00	9527.00	6653.21	7957.92	5592.75
<b>BE</b>	3958.00	6806.33	5376.18	4795.24	4768.26
<b>RE</b>	3044.82	6388.00	5400.50	4428.01	-
<b>Actual</b>	3030.54	4504.36	3863.13	4174.12	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	71	72	94	-

### Allocation to Central Sector Schemes/Projects including Digital India Programme from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25

S. No.	Scheme/Non-Schemes	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25	
		BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	Proposed	BE
4	Digital India Programme	6806.33	6388.00	4504.36	5376.18	5400.50	3863.13	4795.24	4428.01	4174.12	5592.75	4768.26
4.1	Electronic Governance incl. EAP	425.00	535.00	312.39	525.00	525.00	216.32	555.74	588.00	571.64	700.00	650.00
4.2	Manpower Development	400.00	400.00	272.26	350.00	250.00	78.64					

4.3	National Knowledge Network	500.00	500.00	500.00	650.00	485.25	323.26	352.00	582.00	581.94	700.00	240.26
4.4	Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters)	2631.32	2014.00	1193.02	2403.00	1199.00	634.03	700.00	700.00	694.27	970.00	750.00
4.5	Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries	150.00	100.00	69.80	100.00	89.25	66.08	150.00	120.00	115.76	150.00	130.00
4.6	Cyber Security Projects	200.00	339.00	310.51	300.00	100.00	30.11	400.00	400.00	316.51	759.00	759.00
4.7	R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT	700.00	700.00	502.04	598.17	365.00	275.07	600.00	1000.00	877.09	1200.00	1148.25
4.8	PMGDISHA	300.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00					
4.9	Promotion of Digital Payments (Renamed as Promotion of Digital Transactions w.e.f. 1.4.2024)	1500.00	1500.00	1044.34	200.00	2137.00	1989.62	1500.00	584.00	582.75	2.00	1.50
4.10	Champion Service Sector Scheme	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00					
4.11	Capacity Building and Skill Development Scheme							537.50	454.01	434.16	560.00	537.50
4.12	IndiaAI Mission										551.75	551.75
5	<b>Other Central Sector Schemes/Projects</b>				<b>5300.00</b>	<b>2403.00</b>	<b>1667.95</b>	<b>7645.04</b>	<b>6063.24</b>	<b>4965.51</b>	<b>15349.00</b>	<b>13103.00</b>
5.1	Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India					200.00	13.00	3000.00	1503.36	681.11	6903.00	6903.00
5.2	Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)				5300.00	2203.00	1654.95	4645.04	4559.88	4284.40	8446.00	6200.00

**(i) Electronic Governance including EAP**

50. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year in respect of Electronic Governance including EAP as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	850.00	750.00	575.00	559.72	700.00
<b>BE</b>	425.00	425.00	525.00	555.74	650.00
<b>RE</b>	415.82	535.00	525.00	588.00	
<b>Actual</b>	404.99	312.39	216.32	571.64	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	97	58	41	97	

51. When asked about major impediments being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and measures taken to address them, the Ministry submitted that:-

“The primary challenges faced for implementation of Electronics Governance Scheme are digital literacy, digital connectivity, accessibility to services, ease in availing the digital services and the awareness/ readiness amongst the departments to adopt the services. Besides these challenges, the digital divide gap is also attributed to the fact that many citizens belonging to the weaker sections are deprived of availing the digital services.

Government has already taken necessary measures to tackle these challenges through implementing “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India and BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country with 100 Mbps connectivity. Government is also providing the services in assisted mode through CSCs to digitally illiterate and taking steps through various other channels

also. Moreover, Government is striving hard to create awareness amongst citizens through various modes including social media platforms, as well as the departments for onboarding and consumption of the digital services”.

(ii) **Human Resource Development**

52. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year with respect to Human Resource Development are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	550.00	500.00	450.00	827.34	560.00
<b>BE</b>	430.00	400.00	350.00	537.50	537.50
<b>RE</b>	190.00	400.00	250.00	454.01	
<b>Actual</b>	190.00	272.26	78.64	434.16	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	68	31	96	

Note: Manpower Development and PMGDISHA as both the schemes have been merged to form “Capacity Building and Skill Development Scheme” w.e.f. 01.04.2023.

53. Regarding details with respect to the objectives of the Scheme, the Ministry has submitted that :

“The activities under Human Resource Development, Division, MeitY consist of two components viz. Manpower Development Scheme and PMGDISHA Scheme and the same has been renamed as Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme (erstwhile Manpower Development and PMGDISHA). Under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme, the activities are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of Electronics and IT industry. Initiatives include identifying gaps emerging from the formal sector and planning programmes in non- formal and formal sectors for meeting these gaps. This includes Skill Development in the domain of Electronics & IT and related areas. Various schemes/project pertaining to Human Resource Development for Electronics and ICT sector have been approved/under implementation.

54. Further, the details with respect to the target/achievement etc. of the major projects under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme were furnished as under:

- i. Skill Development in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) sector: The Government has approved two schemes for Skill Development in ESDM Sector viz. (i) “Scheme for Financial Assistance to select States/UTs for Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector” (Scheme-1) and (ii) “Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India” (Scheme-2) to facilitate creation of an eco-system for development of ESDM Sector in the entire country. Both the Schemes are implemented through Training Partners (TPs) affiliated with Key Implementing Agencies Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI), Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), National Institute of Electronics & IT (NIELIT) and Healthcare Sector Skill

Council (HSSC). Both the above Schemes are being implemented concurrently. Under both schemes so far, a total of 4,93,928 candidates have been enrolled out of which 4,93,926 candidates have been trained, and 3,62,456 candidates have certified. Both schemes shall be completed by 31.12.2024.

- ii. Scheme of Financial Assistance for setting up of Electronics and ICT Academies: Under this scheme 07(Seven) E&ICT Academies have been setup for faculty/mentor development/up gradation to improve the employability of the graduates/diploma holders. Under the scheme, a total of 3,47,867 beneficiaries have been trained under 2,010 faculty development programs (Faculty: 1,13,106; Students/ Others: 2,34,761) by these E&ICT Academies. The schemes ended in 31.03.2023.
- iii. Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase-II: This project aimed at capacity building in Information Security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass Information Security awareness. Under the project, a total of 94,306 candidates have been trained in various formal/non-formal courses in Information Security through 52 institutions (further, 5 Technical Universities participating under the project have reported around 2.90 lakh candidates as trained in formal courses in their respective affiliated colleges). In addition, 28,444 Government officials have been trained in various short-term courses through direct trainings/e-Learning mode. Besides this, 1,567 awareness workshops have been conducted across the country covering 3,53,558 participants and around 5.75 crore (estimated) beneficiaries have been covered under indirect mode. The project ended on 31.12.2023.

Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase-III: MeitY in 16.10.2023 approved the ISEA Project Phase-III towards human resource development for safe, trusted, and secure cyber space. The project aims to generate around 2.75 lakh human resources in the area of Information Security over a period of 5 years comprising of 45,000 skilled & certified Cyber Security Professionals (including CISOs, Deputy CISOs, Associate team of CISOs/Aspirants) and training of 2.3 lakh students (UG/PG level), research scholars, faculty, etc. in various formal/non-formal courses and innovation activities in Information Security. Further, more than 12 crore beneficiaries are envisaged to be covered under the Cyber Aware Digital NaagriK (Mass Awareness) component through various activities in direct/indirect mode. The project shall be completed by 15.10.2028.

- iv. Development of North-Eastern Region by enhancing the Training/ Education capacity in the Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT) Area: The project objective includes up-gradation of the three existing NIELIT centers located at Imphal, Aizawl, Gangtok; Setting up of seven new Extension centers at Senapati and Churachandpur in Manipur; Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Kokrajhar in Assam; Lunglei in Mizoram; Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh; and Upgradation of two existing extension centers located at Chuchuyimlang in Nagaland and Tezpur in Assam to increase the training capacity from 3,080 per year to 14,400 per year from the 5th year onward. As of now the annual training capacity of these centers (including six centers operational from temporary locations at Guwahati and Silchar in Assam; Itanagar and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh; Shillong and Tura in Meghalaya) is around 20,000 candidates. Presently 18 NIELIT Centres/extension centers

supported under the project are operational from permanent/temporary premises. Under the project around 2.49 lakhs candidates have been trained in various Electronics & ICT courses so far. The project was completed on 30.09.2023.

- v. Future Skills 'PRIME': MeitY in collaboration with IT/ITeS Sector Skills Council-NASSCOM has initiated a programme titled Future Skills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability). Future Skills PRIME is an 'aggregator of aggregators' platform comprising various online skills providers to provide digital skills training on a national scale in online mode. The programme is aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling of IT professionals in 10 new/emerging technologies namely Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Robotic Process Automation, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile, Cyber Security, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Internet of Things and Block chain. Besides the online mode, 40 centres of CDAC and NIELIT are also implementing the Blended Learning mode, Training of Trainers, and Government Official training programmes. Under the programme, as of 08.10.2024, a total of 19,49,819 candidates have signed-up on the portal, and 8,36,149 candidates have enrolled in various courses, out of which 3,78,414 candidates have completed their course(s). Further, the Resource Centres (Lead/ Co-Lead Centres), have so far trained 11,492 Government Officials and 2,367 Trainers. The project shall be completed on 31.03.2027.
- vi. Capacity building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft System: The project 'SwaYaan- Capacity building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft System' was approved by MeitY on 11.07.2022. Under the project, implementation is being carried out by 30 premium institutions, in a hub-n-spoke mode, comprising 5 Resource Centers, 15 Academic Participating Institutes (PI-Academic), and 10 C-DAC/NIELIT Participating Institutes (PI-C-DAC/NIELIT) Centers. Under the project, the total target is to train 46,785 participants through 1,700 activities over the period of 5 years. The total 413 of the formal programs including MTech, Minor Degree, Retrofitting Electives, Open Online Courses, IPR (Papers & Patents) and International Conferences are aimed to create 9,685 manpower while the non-formal programs including 1287 activities namely Workshop, FDP, PG Diploma, Bootcamp, Skilling Course, POC and National Competitions envisaging to create around 37,100 manpower across the Country. Under the project, so far 10448 participants have been benefitted through 391 various formal and non-formal activities. The project shall be completed by 10.07.2027.
- vii. Work Based Learning (WBL) Programme: MeitY has approved the WBL Programme with the objective of providing an opportunity for SC/ST/EWS/Women candidates to acquire Technical Knowledge Expansion, Real-time Working Skills, Technology Use, Problem-Solving Skills, Reasoning, Ideation, Analytical Thinking, Interpersonal Skills, etc. in a professional work environment. As of now, 2008 candidates (SC- 589, ST-356, EWS-339 and WOMAN- 724) are enrolled, out of which 825 candidates have completed under Work Based Learning (WBL) Programme. Candidates undergoing Work Based Learning (WBL) programs would be issued certificates after successful completion and monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000 (per month). The project shall be completed by 08.03.2027.

viii. PMGDISHA: The Government of India was approved a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country are envisaged to register an average of 200-300 candidates. Under the scheme as on 31.03.2024, around 7.35 crore candidates were enrolled and 6.39 crore were trained, out of which 4.78 crore candidates were certified. The training & certification under the PMGDISHA Scheme has been officially concluded on 31.03.2024”.

**55.** While furnishing details with respect to the targets set under the scheme during 2024-25 and the measures being taken to achieve the same, the Ministry informed the Committee as under:-

“Under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme, the activities are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of Electronics and IT industry. Initiatives include identifying gaps emerging from the formal sector and planning programmes in non- formal and formal sectors for meeting these gaps. This includes Skill Development in the domain of Electronics & IT and related areas. It is proposed that a total of 4.30 lakh candidates would be trained in the area of E&ICT during the year 2024-25. The target has been achieved in excess through training of beneficiaries by the autonomous societies of MeitY viz. NIELIT, C-DAC, etc. and implementation of various Skill Development Projects/ Schemes by these organizations as well as other implementing agencies. Further, the Ministry is closely monitoring these targets to ensure timely achievement”.

**56.** On being asked about the major impediments being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and the measures taken to address the same, the Ministry stated as under:-

“No major impediments are being encountered in the implementation of the Schemes/projects under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme. With regard to implementation of the skill development project/scheme, some challenges have been faced viz. the connectivity and availability of infrastructure is poor in hilly/sparse/remote areas of the country including the rural areas, however the following measures are being taken to address the issues:

- 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.
- Scaling up the awareness and promotional activities through workshops, etc”.

(iii) **National Knowledge Network (NKN)**

57. National Knowledge Network (NKN) is an innovative, cutting-edge, robust, and secured network, which provides a centralized multigigabit high-speed digital connectivity backbone for research & educational institutions and Government Organisations spread across India. NKN was approved in March 2010 by Cabinet Committee of Infrastructure (CCI) to be implemented by NIC over a period of 10 years at a total outlay of Rs. 5,990 Crore, which has been enhanced to Rs. 6,548.2 Crore. Subsequently, duration of NKN has been extended year-on-year. The approval for the next phase of NKN [i.e. Digital India Infoway (DII)] is under process. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for DII is ready.

58. With respect to National Knowledge Network, the details of budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year as provided by the Ministry are as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	500.00	785.00	650.00	495.52	700.00
<b>BE</b>	400.00	500.00	650.00	352.00	240.26
<b>RE</b>	584.00	500.00	485.25	582.00	
<b>Actual</b>	584.00	500.00	323.26	581.94	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	100	67	100	

59. The Ministry submitted the overview of the scheme as under:-

“In March 2010 the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) approved the establishment of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) at an outlay of Rs.5990 crore, implemented by NIC over a period of 10 years. The duration of NKN has been extended till 31st March 2025 with revised outlay of Rs. 6956.88 cr.

NKN carries the digital-traffic of National/state Data Centres (NDCs/SDCs), State-Wide Area Networks (SWANs) and provides connectivity to various Digital India initiatives, and carry digital-traffic of various G2G (Government to Government) and G2C (Government to Citizen) services, District Connectivity, etc. NKN also inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high-speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. A high-speed data communication network has been established to interconnect Institution of higher learning, and research. Eventually, NKN fulfils the needs of the government network [National Government Network (NGN)], and the Research & Education Network (REN) both”.

60. On being asked as to what steps were being taken by the Ministry to ensure adequate availability of funds during 2024-25 as there was substantial gap between the amount proposed and that allocated, the Ministry submitted:-

“The proposed estimated outlay of FY 2024-25 is Rs.925.00 crore, however, allocation for FY 2024-25 is Rs.240.26 crore. Efforts would be made to seek additional funds in RE 2024-25”.

(iv) **Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters)**

61. The budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and the BE for the current year towards Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters) in India are as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	1545.00	4200.00	2405.00	3500.00	970.00
<b>BE</b>	980.00	2631.32	2403.00	700.00	750.00
<b>RE</b>	700.00	2014.00	1199.00	700.00	
<b>Actual</b>	478.62	1193.02	634.03	694.27	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	68	59	53	99	

62. While submitting the objectives, targets, date of launching and deadline for completion of Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters) in India scheme, the Ministry furnished the following:-

“Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS): The SPECS was notified on 01st April, 2020 to offset disability in the Electronic Components Manufacturing Ecosystem in India. The scheme provided subsidy for capital expenditure - 25% for the identified list of electronic goods. The incentives are available for Electronic components, E-waste recycling facility, Solar value chain components, semiconductor/ display fabrication units including Specialty chemicals, high purity gases, Engineering, R&D, Testing and Tool Prototyping for capital goods for manufacturing of semiconductors / displays, ATMP units, specialized sub-assemblies and capital goods for manufacture of aforesaid goods. The scheme is expected to bring in New Investment in the electronics sector to the tune of ~INR 20,000 crore and is expected to generate ~1.5 lakh jobs during its tenure. The Scheme was closed to receive new applications on 31 March, 2024 and the scheme duration is till 31.03 2029.

Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS): The Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) was notified on 27th July, 2012 with a objective to encourage investments in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing sector in India and offer a package of incentives to attract domestic and global investments into the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) as a means to minimizing the disabilities. The scheme provides subsidy for capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special



Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs. The incentives are available for 44 categories / verticals of electronic products and components covering entire electronics manufacturing value chain.

The scheme has been amended in August, 2015 to extend the period of the scheme, enhance scope of the Scheme by including 15 more product verticals, and attract more investment. The scheme was further amended in January, 2017 to expedite the investments. The Scheme was closed to receive new applications on 31 December, 2018.

EMC/EMC 2.0: EMC scheme was notified on 22.10.2012 to provide financial support for development of quality infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities for attracting electronics manufacturing units in the country through such Clusters. The scheme was open for receipt of application for a period of 5 years i.e. upto Oct. 2017 and further period upto Oct. 2024 is available for disbursement of the funds to the approved projects. Under the Scheme, 19 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common facility Centers with a project cost of Rs. 3,499 crore including Central Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,470 crore accorded approval in 15 states across the country with projected targeted investment of Rs. 46,619 crore from units and employment generation of over 6 lakh persons.

Based on further strengthening the infrastructure base for electronics manufacturing, Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme was notified on 1st April, 2020 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 3,762 crores, to provide support for creation of industry-oriented infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities including plug & play infrastructure for attracting major electronics manufacturers along with their supply chain to set up their facility in the country. The Scheme was open for receipt of application for a period upto March, 2024 and further period upto March, 2028 is available for disbursement of funds to the approved projects. The Scheme is targeted to provide plug & play infrastructure, attracting new investment in electronics sector and provide employment to about 10.00 lakh persons”.

**63.** Reasons for variation in allocation of funds during 2023-24 and the actual status of utilization of funds made along with the reasons as submitted by the Ministry are:-

“Under the Object - Head of Other Revenue Expenditure the Schemes SPECS and MSIPS (SPECS): Budget allocated was Rs.562.00 crore which was Rs. 489.43 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure was Rs. 462.60 crore. This variation in the expenditure was due to some disbursement claims could not be approved under MSIPS Scheme due to non-submission of claims by applicants. Under Grant for Creation of Capital Assets (EMC/EMC 2.0): During the FY 2023-24, as regards to EMC, an amount of Rs. 100.00 crore was allocated in BE which was revised as Rs. 150 crore based on demand from the implementing agencies. The allocated RE was fully utilized during the FY 2023-24”.

64. When the Ministry was asked about the targets set during 2024-25 and the measures being taken to achieve the targets, the reply was:-

**“SPECS:**

1. For FY 2024-25, following below targets have been set:-

S.NO.	Parameter	Target
1.	Total number of units sanctioned incentive in FY 2024-25	15
2.	Amount of disbursement to be done to units in FY 2024-25 (Rs. Crore)	282

**M-SIPS:**

A budget of Rs.320.00 crore has been earmarked for 2024-25 for M-SIPS and the details of the same are as under:-

Physical Parameter	Target	Achievement as on 30 September 2024
Budget allocated	Rs 320 crore	Rs.97.93 crore
Employment Generated	50,000	41,792
Investment Incurred	Rs 5000 crore	Rs 3,493 crore

**EMC/EMC 2.0:**

FY 2024-25	Target
Release of GIA (Rs. in crore)	150.00
No. of companies allotted land	25
Investment attracted in EMCs (Rs. in crore)	1,400.00

Following measures are being taken to achieve the targets set under SPECS and M-SIPS:

- i) Organized workshop/meeting with applicant to address their disbursement related issues
- ii) Disbursement projections for next two quarter are being sought from applicant through QPR.

MeitY is pursuing with the implementing agencies to trigger the project in fast pace so as to achieve the projected target timely”.

65. Regarding major impediments that were being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and the measures taken to address them, the Committee were apprised as under:-

“Scheme for Promotion of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS): SPECS is being implemented for last 4 years. During this period there are changes in the list of eligible electronic goods due to change in technology, and for development of component ecosystem.

Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS): MSIPS is being implemented for last 12 years. During this period there are many changes in the approved projects such as change in technology, location, timelines, promoter etc. MeitY has devised procedures to approve these changes in the project.

EMC/EMC 2.0: Changes in the fund flow procedure notified by DoE from time to time and non-compliance of requisite terms & conditions, the project implementation is getting delayed. The progress of the projects are being monitored with concerned implementing agencies to sort out the issues (as applicable) and discussions are being held up with concerned DOE team for simplified the procedure or provide exemption to the scheme till the inclusion of requisite module on PFMS”.

66. On the overall status of implementation of this scheme and achievements made so far, the Ministry has submitted the following information:

**“Scheme for Promotion of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS):** As on 30 September, 2024, 52 applications with proposed investment of Rs. 14,798 crore have been approved. As on 30 September, 2024, incentives of Rs.584.01 crore have been released to 13 applicants. As per the Quarterly Progress Report for September 2024, submitted by the applicant total investment made is INR 9,067 crore, total production is INR 20,133 crore and total employment generated is 38,313 persons.

**Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS):** As on 30 September, 2024, 319 applications with proposed investment of Rs.83,801 crore are under consideration. Out of these 319 applications, 317 applications with proposed investment of approximately Rs.81,768 crore have been approved, 1 applications with proposed investment of approximately Rs.24 crore have been recommended by the Appraisal Committee for approval, 1 application with proposed investment of Rs.2,009 crore are under appraisal. As on 30 September, 2024, incentives of Rs.2473.82 crore have been released to 144 applicants”.

**EMC/EMC 2.0:**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>EMC</b>	<b>EMC 2.0</b>
Projects approved	19 Greenfield EMCs and 3 CFCs	6 EMCs and 1 CFC
Area (acres)	3,464	2074
Project Cost	3,499	2,893
Gol Grant-in-aid	1,470	1,369
Projected Investment (Rs. In crore)	46,619	30,622
Projected Employment	6.30 Lakh	1.07 Lakh
Companies allotted land	404	45
Committed Investment of plot allottees	51,049	23,741
Committed Employment	2.68 Lakh	39,463
Companies operational	126	3
Investment Mobilized	17,146	3,076
Employment generated	67,761	5,289

**(v) Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries**

67. Towards Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries Scheme, the budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and BE for the current year are as under:-

	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>				
	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	200.00	200.00	246.00	285.08	150.00
<b>BE</b>	170.00	150.00	100.00	150.00	130.00
<b>RE</b>	100.00	100.00	89.25	120.00	
<b>Actual</b>	98.55	69.80	66.08	115.76	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	99	70	74	96	

68. While giving an overview of the Scheme, the Ministry has submitted:-

“The overall objective of the scheme is to promote creation of sustainable IT/Software industry leveraging India’s strength in IT sector and entrepreneurship eco-system having capabilities to create disruptive innovations, cutting-edge technologies and to increase the Indian foot print in global market through market outreach programme. This is an ongoing scheme up-to 2025-26. The continuation of the scheme would depend upon the review”.

69. On the reasons for decrease in allocation from BE to RE during 2023-24 and the actual status of utilization of funds made, the Ministry has stated as under:-

“The funds at RE Stage were reduced by 30 crore due to low pace of expenditure in first two quarters of FY 2022-23. Disbursement/utilization affected during Covid led to delayed settlement of UCs. This along with revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Scheme affected the timeline for disbursement/utilization of funds in the subsequent years including 2023-24”.

70. Regarding the targets set during 2024-25 under this scheme and the measures being taken to achieve the set targets, the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:-

“The targets and achievements in respect of this scheme are as below:

No. of tech start-ups to be supported through various domain specific CoEs, NGIS, SAMRIDH= 300.

To conduct 5 No.s of ICT Grand Challenge for solving societal challenges by utilizing ICT.

IT/ITeS Scheme is committed for supporting Indian IT/ITeS industry and tech start-ups through various programmes in place such as NGIS, domain specific CoEs, SAMRIDH. Further, in order to leverage various support promotion of IT Industry beyond metro cities, Scheme to promote India as global brand in Information Technology, Software Product Innovation & Research Programme under National Policy on Software Product (RAPID), Establishment of Super Innovation Cluster under NPSP, draft New National IT Policy, GCC and ER&D Schemes are under formulation”.

71. While submitting reply to major impediments being encountered and measures taken to address them, the Ministry has stated that:-

“During 2020 and 2021, complete IT/ITeS industry was adversely affected through country wide lockdown due to COVID pandemic. Thereafter, revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Scheme took place and onboarding affected the timeline for disbursement of funds. In current FY 2024-25 ITeS Scheme has again shifted from Model II (Revised procedure for flow of funds) to Model I and the same have slightly affected the disbursement/utilization. After shifting to Model I in July, 2024 disbursement has been started immediately and utilization is now picking up.

**(vi) Cyber Security Projects (NCCC & Others)**

72. CERT-In has operationalised the NCCC project with the objective to generate situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive, and protective actions by individual entities. NCCC aims to create a structured system to facilitate coordination effort among stakeholders by sharing with them inputs in terms of information about threats/attacks and possible extent which in turn enables immediate remedial actions by the stakeholders. The project is facilitating various organizations and entities as well as major events in the country to mitigate cyber-attacks and cyber incidents on a near real time basis.

73. The budgetary allocation and utilization with respect to Cyber Security Projects (NCCC & Others) scheme during the last four years and BE for the current year is as follows:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	400.00	92.00	35.00	432.39	759.00
<b>BE</b>	170.00	200.00	300.00	400.00	759.00
<b>RE</b>	80.00	339.00	100.00	400.00	
<b>Actual</b>	79.99	310.51	30.11	316.51	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	92	30.11	79	

74. Details of the targets set during 2024-25 under this scheme and the measures being taken to achieve the targets, the Ministry have stated as under:

“Two projects under DPDP have been initiated for setting up of digital office & awareness of DPDP Act and few more are being prepared to initiate as per plan. Now, a R&D scheme for DPDP is being planned followed by few brainstorming sessions with academicians & eminent experts to filter-in the industry-oriented viable areas”.

(vii) **R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT**

75. The budgetary allocation and utilization with respect to R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT scheme during the last four years and BE for the current year are as follows:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	1300.00	2200.00	1422.20	967.22	1200.00
<b>BE</b>	762.99	700.00	598.17	600.00	1148.25
<b>RE</b>	425.00	700.00	365.00	1000.00	
<b>Actual</b>	420.91	502.04	275.07	877.09	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	99	72	75	88	

76. On being asked to furnish the objectives, targets, date of launching and deadline for completion of this Scheme, the Committee were apprised as under:-

“MeitY supports R&D activities in all E&ICT areas. Defined group under the scheme take up research in specific areas of technology. The objectives of the scheme are as follows:

- To transform India into a Global Hub of R&D and Innovation in E&IT for inclusive and sustainable growth of the National Economy.
- Nurture collaboration with academia, Research Labs and Industry in India & Abroad with a long-term roadmap.

- To develop the know-how of the various process technologies, products, systems at different institutes/ organizations/ societies suitable for Indian Market and as Import substitution.
- Technology Transfer to Industries for commercialization.
- Also benefit any region and SC/ ST Community through technology & building R&D capabilities.
- Outcome of the project reaches the masses and have impact on the Society.

This is an ongoing scheme up to 2025-26. The continuation of the Scheme would depend upon the review”.

77. With respect to major impediments being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry informed as under:-

“Major impediment under this scheme is lack of upfront support from the industry for sharing of domain knowledge, testing and commercialization of the developed technologies. To address this challenge, priority is being given to projects with industry support and their involvement from the beginning. This will build confidence among the industry on indigenous technologies so developed”.

(viii) **Promotion of Digital Payment**

78. With respect to Promotion of Digital Payment scheme, the budgetary allocation and utilization during the last four years and BE for the current year are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	320.00	300.00	570.00	890.65	-
<b>BE</b>	220.00	1500.00	200.00	1500.00	-
<b>RE</b>	300.00	1500.00	2137.00	584.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	523.48	1044.34	1989.62	582.75	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	174	70	93	100	-

\* MeitY is no more concerned with "Promotion of Digital Payments Scheme" as this scheme has been transferred to Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance vide Gazette Notification dated 17.07.2023.

(ix) **Champion Service Sector Scheme**

79. The budgetary allocation and utilization with respect to Champion Service Sector Scheme during the last four years and BE for the current year are as follows:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	100.00	100.00	0.01	-	-
<b>BE</b>	0.01	0.01	0.01	-	-
<b>RE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
<b>Actual</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-

80. When the Committee wanted to know the overall status of implementation of this project and the present status of functioning of the scheme along with the achievements made, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Although token provision of Rs.0.01 crore was made during the years 2020-21 to 2022-23, yet the nodal Ministry for this scheme, i.e., Ministry of Commerce, which was initially supposed to allocate funds, did not allocate any fund to MeitY towards implementation of the identified sector, viz. IT/ITeS sector. Hence, IT/ITeS Sector remained unimplemented under the Champion Service Sector Umbrella Scheme. However, MeitY has been implementing the identified services under “Promotion of IT and ITeS Industries” scheme”.

(x) **Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India**

81. The Ministry provided the following details in regard of allocation of funds to this scheme:-

	(Rs. in crore)			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	-	-	3000.00	6903.00
<b>BE</b>	-	-	3000.00	6903.00
<b>RE</b>	-	200.00	1503.36	
<b>Actual</b>	-	13.00	681.11	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	-	7	45	



**82.** While giving the overview of the scheme, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“In furtherance of the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and positioning India as the global hub for Electronic System Design and Manufacturing, the Union Cabinet approved a comprehensive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country with an outlay of INR 76,000 crore on 15.12.2021.

The programme aimed to provide attractive incentive support to companies / consortia that are engaged in Silicon Semiconductor Fabrications (Fabs), Display Fabrications, Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors (including MEMS) Fabrications, Semiconductor Packaging (ATMP / OSAT), Semiconductor Design. As part of the programme, following four schemes were notified on 21.12.2021:

- i. Scheme for setting up of semiconductor fabs in India
- ii. Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India
- iii. Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT facilities in India
- iv. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

Additionally, the Union Cabinet also approved that Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will take requisite steps for modernization and commercialization of Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali.

**83.** In addition, the Ministry also submitted that:-

“Further, on 21.09.2022, Union Cabinet has accorded approval for modifications in “Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India” which was approved by the Union Cabinet on 15.12.2021. Consequent upon the approval of the Union Cabinet on 21.09.2022, modified schemes were notified in Gazette of India on 04.10.2022. As per the modified programme, following incentives are now available:

- i. ‘Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India’ for attracting large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in the country to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem and help establish a trusted value chain. The Scheme extends a fiscal support of 50%

of the project cost over period of 6 years on pari-passu basis for setting up of Silicon CMOS based Semiconductor Fab in India.

ii. 'Modified Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India' for attracting large investments for manufacturing TFT LCD or AMOLED based display panels in the country to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem. Scheme extends fiscal support of 50% of Project Cost over period of 6 years on pari-passu basis for setting up of Display Fabs in India.

iii. 'Modified Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab / Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT facilities in India' shall extend a fiscal support of 50% of the Capital Expenditure on Pari-passu basis for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics (SiPh) / Sensors (including MEMS) Fab/ Discrete Semiconductor Fab and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities in India. The window for receiving the applications was closed in September, 2024.

iv Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme' offers financial incentives, design infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design. The scheme provides "Product Design Linked Incentive" of up to 50% of the eligible expenditure subject to a ceiling of ₹15 Crore per application and "Deployment Linked Incentive" of 6% to 4% of net sales turnover over 5 years subject to a ceiling of ₹30 Crore per application".

**84.** While furnishing reasons, for variations in allocation from BE to RE during 2023-24 and providing actual status of utilization of funds made along with the reasons for increase/decrease in utilization, the Ministry submitted that:-

"The funds allocated at BE stage were Rs. 3000 Crore which were reduced at RE stage to Rs.1503.36 crore. The actual usage of the fund during FY 2023-24 was Rs. 681.11 crore. The reasons for reduction at RE and actual usage were (a) delay in submission of the required documents from the applicants for the appraisal process (b) three applications were approved in Feb 2024. However, the funds could not be released to them without signing of Fiscal Support Agreement by India Semiconductor Mission".

**85.** On being asked about the targets set under this scheme during 2024-25 and the measures being taken to achieve the set target, the Ministry stated that:-

“A budget of Rs.6903 crore has been earmarked for FY 2024-25 under the Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Ecosystem in India. During the year, it is targeted that investments to the tune of Rs. 15,000 Crore will be done by the 05 approved companies under different schemes of the Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India. Under the DLI scheme, 20 companies are expected to be supported for design and development of semiconductor IP Cores”.

**86.** Submitting the major impediments being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and measures taken to address them, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Semiconductor and display manufacturing are very complex and technology intensive industry with huge capital investments, high risk, long gestation and payback periods, and rapid changes in technology requiring significant and sustained investments.

The programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India has further been modified in view of the aggressive incentives offered by countries already having established semiconductor ecosystem and limited number of companies owning the advanced node technologies. The modified programme aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem. This will serve to pave the way for India’s growing presence in the global electronics value chains”.

**87.** Regarding the overall status of implementation of this scheme and the present status of functioning of the scheme along with the achievements made so far, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The details of approvals issued under the programme are as follows:

- i. Micron Technology Inc.'s proposal for setting up an ATMP facility in India with an investment of Rs 22,516 crore was approved in June 2023. Micron’s facility in India will enable assembly and test manufacturing for both DRAM and NAND products and address demand from domestic and international markets with a production capacity of around 40 million per week.
- ii. Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)’s proposal for setting up a Semiconductor Fab facility in India with an investment of Rs 91,526 crore was approved in February 2024. The fab facility will be set up in technology partnership with PSMC, Taiwan. PSMC is an established semiconductor company having 6 semiconductor foundries in Taiwan. The production capacity of the project would be around 50,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM).

- iii. Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)'s proposal for setting up of OSAT facility in India with an investment of Rs 27,120 crores was approved in February 2024. The facility will use indigenous semiconductor packaging technologies with a production capacity of 48 million per day.
- iv. CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited's proposal for setting up OSAT facility in India with an investment of Rs 7,584 crore was also approved in February 2024. The facility will be set up as joint venture partnership with Renesas Electronics America Inc., USA, and STARS Microelectronic, Thailand. The Technology would be provided for this facility by Renesas Electronics Corporation, Japan and STARS Microelectronic, Thailand. The production capacity would be around 15.07Million Units per day.
- v. Kaynes Technology India Limited (KTIL) proposal of for setting up of Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Sanand, Gujarat for Wire bond Interconnect, Substrate Based Packages was approved in September,2024. The Technology would be provided by ISO Technology Sdn. Bhd. and Aptos Technology Inc. This facility will be setup with an investment of Rs 3,307 crore. The facility will have the capacity to produce more than 6.33 Million chips per day.
- vi. Fourteen (14) applications namely DV2JS Innovation LLP, Vervesemi Microelectronics Pvt Ltd, Fermionic Design Pvt Ltd, Morphing Machines Pvt Ltd, Calligo Technologies Pvt Ltd, Sensesemi Technologies Pvt Ltd, Saankhya Labs Pvt Ltd, Aheesa Digital Innovations Pvt Ltd, Netrasemi Pvt Ltd, Green PMU Semi Pvt Ltd, WiSig Networks Pvt Ltd, MosChip Technologies, InCore Semiconductors and Mindgrove Technologies have been approved under Design Linked incentive Scheme. Additionally, Thrity-Two (32) semiconductor design companies have been approved for access of the EDA tools made available by National EDA Tool Grid setup at ChipIN Centre at C-DAC Bengaluru”.

**(xi) Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)**

88. The Ministry provided the following details with regard to the Budgetary allocation to this scheme:-

	(Rs. in crore)			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	-	5298.00	5355.00	8446.00
<b>BE</b>	-	5300.00	4645.04	6200.00
<b>RE</b>	-	2203.00	4559.88	
<b>Actual</b>	-	1654.95	4284.40	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	-	75	94	

89. Giving the overview of this scheme, the Ministry submitted as under:-

**“PLI Scheme for LSEM:**

**Objective:** To boost domestic manufacturing and attract investment in mobile phones value chain including electronic components and semiconductor packaging

Notification Date: 01.04.2020

Target Segments: Mobile Phones & Specified Electronic Components

Scheme tenure: 5 years (In accordance with the announcement made by Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister on 28.06.2021 to provide relief to companies approved under the PLI Scheme affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tenure of the PLI Scheme has been extended by one year i.e., from 2024-25 to 2025-26)

Scheme Projections: The scheme aims to generate Cumulative Production of INR 8,12,550 Cr, Cumulative Exports of INR 4,87,530 Cr, Cumulative Investment of INR 7,000 Cr, Cumulative Employment of 2,00,000 (Direct jobs) over the scheme tenure.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) 2.0 for IT Hardware: It was notified on 29.05.2023 with an objective to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the value chain. The PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware extends an incentive of around 5% (based on localization of components/sub-assemblies) on net incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of six (6) years. The Target Segment under the scheme includes (i) Laptops (ii) Tablets (iii) All-in-One PCs and (iv) Servers (v) USFF (Ultra Small Form Factor)".

**90.** Furnishing the reasons, in case of any increase/decrease in allocation from BE to RE during 2023-24 and the actual status of utilization of funds made along with the reasons for increase/decrease in utilization, the Ministry stated that:-

"PLI Scheme for LSEM: BE for FY 23-24 was INR 4499.04 crore and RE was INR 4489.46 crore. Actual expenditure incurred was INR 4230.30 crore. The budget allocated for FY 2023-24 was based on projections received from applicants for the scheme. However, the actual expenditure incurred is as per the incentives disbursed to the companies which could achieve the investment and sales turnover threshold defined under the respective schemes and subsequent filing of the claim by the companies.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware: There is a reduction of Rs. 70.58 crore at the RE stage (from Rs.146.00 crore in BE 2023-24 to Rs. 75.42 crore in RE 2023-24). MeitY did not receive incentive proposals under the PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware, as the scheme is in its early stages. The applicants were in their first year of participation and are eligible to file their incentive claims in the following year. Of the allocated RE of Rs. 75.42 crore, Rs. 54.10 crore (71.7%) has been utilized for disbursement of incentives under the earlier PLI Scheme for IT Hardware and payment of PMA fees".

**91.** Regarding major impediments being encountered in the implementation of the scheme and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry submitted the following information:-

“PLI Scheme for LSEM: Under the Domestic Category for Mobile phones, only 2 applicants are performing out of 5 approved applicants. In Specified Electronics Category (SEC), only 1 out of 6 applicants from Round I and 11 out of 16 applicants from Round II are performing. MeitY is actively engaging with the applicants to enhance performance and achieve the set targets under the scheme. Further, the decision on payment of incentive over and above the ceiling amount as per scheme guidelines is pending with EC.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware: The scheme is in its nascent phase and companies are taking longer to meet the threshold criteria. MeitY is actively engaging with stakeholders to improve performance and ensure the achievement of the set targets under the scheme”.

**92.** Being asked about the overall status of implementation of this scheme and the present status of functioning of the scheme along with the achievements made so far, the Ministry replied as under:-

“PLI Scheme for LSEM: Under the scheme, till Aug’24, the 32 applicants have contributed to cumulative investment of INR 9100 Cr, cumulative production of INR 6,00,661 Cr, cumulative exports of INR 2,81,327 Cr, and generated 1,22,613 cumulative employment (Direct jobs). Cumulative incentive of INR 6834 Cr has been disbursed till date to 18 companies.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware: The PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware is in its nascent phase. Till 31.08.2024, as per the data provided by the applicants, the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware and PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware have combinedly led to a total production of Rs. 9,811.73 crore, total investment of Rs. 482.02 crore and total employment of 4,423”.

**93.** When the Ministry was asked to comment on the reasons why the anticipated expenditure in respect of ‘Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display manufacturing Ecosystem in India’ and PLI schemes could not materialize and whether this was the reason for reduction of an amount of Rs. 3704.85 crore (approx.) at Budget Estimates (BE) stage for the year 2023-24, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The reasons for less expenditure during the FY 2023-24 in respect of ‘Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display manufacturing Ecosystem in India’ and PLI schemes are given below:  
Modified Programme for Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India:

The Budget Estimate (BE) for FY 2023-24 under the “Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India” was Rs. 3,000 crore. Though, the first approval under the Programme was granted in June 2023, however the release of funds to the approved company started only in January 2024 due to the requirement of signing of Fiscal Support Agreement and an expenditure of Rs.681.11 crore was only incurred. For FY 2024-25, the BE provision was, however, increased to Rs. 6,903 crore, anticipating the approval of a larger number of proposals.

PLI Scheme for LSEM:

An expenditure of Rs.4230.30 was incurred under PLI Scheme for LSEM against the budget allocation of Rs. 4499 Cr in BE 2023-24. This allocation was based on projections received from applicants approved under the scheme. However, the actual expenditure incurred is as per the incentives disbursed to the companies which could achieve the investment and sales turnover threshold defined under the respective schemes and subsequent filing of the claim by the companies. Hence, there was a saving of about Rs.269 cr under this scheme.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware:

During FY 2023-24 at BE stage Rs. 146.00 Cr was allocated and further reduced to Rs. 75.42 Cr at RE stage based on change in projections from applicants. However, actual expenditure was of Rs. 54.10 Cr. This variation in the expenditure was due to PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware being in its early stages and receipt of less incentive claims/applications under PLI Scheme for IT Hardware 1.0.

It is stated that Ministry of Finance had reduced the overall allocation of MeitY by Rs.2127.79 cr at RE stage of FY 2023-24. However, the total savings at the end of the financial year w.r.t. BE 2023-24 was Rs.3701.92 crore which includes Rs.2679.53 cr in respect of PLI and Semiconductor schemes. The budget provision of MeitY was, however, increased from Rs.16,549.04 cr in BE 2023-24 to Rs.21,936.90 cr in BE 2024-25”.

## VII. Assistance to Autonomous and Other Bodies

### (i) Centre for development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

94. Regarding fund allocation to C-DAC, the Ministry submitted the following details:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	300.00	300.00	300.00	270.00	300.00
<b>BE</b>	127.00	200.00	250.00	270.00	270.00
<b>RE</b>	127.00	217.00	250.00	270.00	
<b>Actual</b>	127.00	217.00	250.00	270.00	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	100	100	100	

95. When asked to enumerate the major impediments that were being encountered by C-DAC in the implementation of projects and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Since C-DAC is an Applied R&D Institution undertaking, huge projects of National Importance spread over more than one financial year with outlays exceeding Rs.400 Crore on yearly basis. A major portion of the project outlay being capital

expenses with phased payment plans spilling over the financial years, provisions may be made to carry forward grants/funds assigned to the next financial year wherever commitments are made for the capital expenses”.

**(ii) Centre for Materials for Electronic Technology (C-MET)**

96. The Budgetary allocation for this scheme from 2020-21 onwards is as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	48.00	70.00	100.00	120.00	120.00
<b>BE</b>	50.00	80.00	100.00	110.00	110.00
<b>RE</b>	40.00	78.00	100.00	100.00	
<b>Actual</b>	40.00	60.00	62.31	83.02	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	77	62	83	

97. Responding to a query about whether there was any shortfall in achieving the targets during 2023-24, the Ministry said that:-

“During FY 2023-24 Rs.83.02 crore has been spent as against core grants received Rs.100.00 crore. Even though the entire Capital grant has been utilized, funds remained unspent under Revenue grant (Salary and General budget heads). This was due to existing vacancy/absence of regular employees under several posts and also on account of lower expenditure for maintenance due to several factors like non-completion of infrastructural development by CPWD across the three centers and pending AMC of equipment. Also, firm commitments amounted to Rs.40 crore (approx.) as on 31.03.2024 which relates to ongoing procurement of goods and services for which payments are pending due to non-completion of work.

Total IEBR target for FY 2023-24 was Rs.39.25 crore and actual IEBR for FY 2023-24 was Rs.51.66 crore. Hence IEBR target was fully achieved”.

98. Elaborating on the major impediments being encountered by C-MET in the implementation of the project and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The major impediments being encountered by CMET for implementing the projects are the lack of sufficient manpower both technical and the administrative level. C-MET needs more strength of manpower both at higher and the lower level. Most of the functionaries are working with additional responsibilities. Measures have been taken up to initiate the recruitments for the vacant positions”.



(iii) **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engg & Research (SAMEER)**

99. The fund allocation for this scheme has been made as under by the Ministry:-

(Rs. in crore)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	140.00	150.00	130.00	160.00	170.00
<b>BE</b>	98.00	120.00	150.00	160.00	160.00
<b>RE</b>	88.00	116.00	140.00	150.00	
<b>Actual</b>	88.00	116.00	131.39	150.00	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	100	94	100	

100. Regarding major impediments being encountered by SAMEER and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“a) The procurement of specialised components and semiconductor devices are being sourced from outside country results in inordinate delays in the execution of time bound projects.

To address these concerns SAMEER initiated multiple programme for inhouse development of critical components.

b) Non availability of skilled and highly skilled manpower for microwave research impacts the efforts for indigenous development of systems and subsystems.

Various training programmes are being conducted for existing scientists to enhance their skills and knowledge”.

(iv) **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**

101. The budgetary allocation and utilization with respect to UIDAI Scheme during the last four years and BE for the current year are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	1500.00	1200.00	1400.00	1800.00	1029.00
<b>BE</b>	985.00	600.00	1110.00	940.00	600.00
<b>RE</b>	613.00	884.97	1110.00	800.00	
<b>Actual</b>	613.00	1564.80	1219.65	800.00	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	177	110	100	

102. The overview of the scheme as furnished by the Ministry is as under:-

“(i) The major activities carried out under Enrolment and Updation (E&U) Division:

- a) Framing of policies for E&U in Aadhaar
- b) Enhancement in Enrolment and Update software
- c) Onboarding of Registrars and EAs

Major achievements:

- a) Enrolment conducted in the year 2023-24-2.91 Cr.
- b) Updates in Aadhaar in year 2023-24-25.78 Cr.
- c) Client development for Distinctive Aadhaar to Resident Foreigners

d) Implementation of “Aadhaar State Verification Portal” for verification of credential by State government machinery in case of Adult enrolments.

Successfully implemented the following policy changes:

- a) Differential Aadhaar to resident foreigners
- b) Collection of Aadhaar number of both the parents while enrolling child up to 5 years

**103.** Enumerating the major activities carried out under Authentication and Updation Division, the Ministry submitted:-

1. To enhance the IS security, audit compliances for requesting entities have been revised. New pre-onboarding compliance checklist for appointment of AUA/KUA and new separate checklists for IS audit of AUA/KUA & Sub AUA/Sub KUA have been issued.

2. UIDAI has rolled out new process of faster and time bound on-boarding of AUA/KUAs for use of Aadhar Authentication facilities.

4. 2000+ schemes are mapped under Central and State Government based ministries, departments and other entities covering DBT and Good Governance Schemes.

5. A special audit of 278 entities was conducted in 2 phases after hiring of services of CERT-In empanelled agencies empanelled through NICSII. The control points were purely technical in nature covering cyber security aspects.

6. Face authentication is UIDAI in-house developed AI/ML based biometric authentication technology which has inbuilt security features like liveness detection. In FY 23-24 more than 24 Crores of face authentications have been performed and 25.40 lakh digital life certificates were generated by the residents at the ease of sitting at home. Total 46 entities have used Face Authentication PAN INDIA for disbursement of DBT benefits to the beneficiaries of Central and State Govt. Schemes like Farmers welfare schemes and welfare schemes for women (Anganbadi, PM-POSHAN, PMMVY and EBC Nestham), scholarships for children through NSP and Jagananna Vidya Deevena, DBT for various disbursal schemes like PM-KISAN, PMAY-U MGNREGA, skill training in Jails for Prisoners through Uttar Pradesh Skill Development, healthcare purposes inclusive of cashless hospitalization for PMJAY beneficiaries and creation of ABHA ID, DLC generation for pensioners, used by Banks for various financial solutions and by Telecom companies.

7. Fingerprint devices being used in Aadhaar authentication ecosystem have been upgraded from the currently used L0 fingerprint Registered device to the L1 fingerprint Registered device wherein capture and encryption of Personal Identity Data (PID) taken place within device itself by Pre-certified Hardware (PCH) embedded inside the L1 Fingerprint Device. L1 devices provide increased security, improved accuracy and enhanced usability.

**104.** Furnishing updates under Service Delivery, the Ministry submitted:-

(a) PM Kisan: PM-Kisan started disbursing PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi using Face Authentication in June, 2023 and since then 37 Lacs transactions have been performed using face authentication. This has provided unique solution for Worn-out fingerprints, instant e-KYC, and hassle free DST disbursement for farmers.

(b) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban): PM-AWAS(U) started using Face authentication in May 2023 and since then 32 Lakh face authentication transactions have been performed eliminating the need for physical documents and paperwork and reducing wait times for beneficiaries. This helps in establishing trust and transparency in the distribution of benefits, ensuring that they reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely manner by reducing the risk of fraudulent claims and corruption.

(c) National Health Authority: National Health Authority initially integrated the Face authentication in Co-WIN application which was launched during October, 2021 for registration purposes. Further, NHA extended the use of Face authentication for registration of beneficiaries under PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) the world's largest health assurance scheme to avail cashless treatments at hospitals. Total numbers of 2cr transactions have been recorded using face authentication in FY-23-24. Similarly, 1.46 Lakh transactions were recorded using Face Authentication in Odisha's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) to provide treatment in hospitals and health centres across the state of Odisha.

(d) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): PMMVY recently started using face authentication to disburse cash incentives to pregnant women and lactating mothers through anganbadi's making it easier and comfortable for the women to access the benefits digitally hassle-free. Total number of 4133 transactions has been recorded.

(e) DoITC Rajasthan: Rajasthan Social Security Pension (RajSSP)- Face Authentication is used for disbursing social security pension benefit to

beneficiaries implemented by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, (SJED) Government of Rajasthan. A total of 13.16 lakh transactions have been recorded in the current financial year using face authentication in DoITC Rajasthan.

(f) Jagananna Vidya Deevena (GVWV&VSWS) Govt. Andhra Pradesh: Scholarship Disbursal under a Fee- reimbursement scheme launched by GoAP to all eligible Higher-Education pursuing students. The amount is disbursed to the Mother/Guardian of the Student which in turn paid to the Colleges/ Institutions by using face authentication. Total of 5.63 crs transactions have taken place in the above two schemes under GVWV &GSVS in FY23-24

(g) Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a social security scheme that provides employment opportunities to rural households in India. UIDAI's Face Authentication is envisaged to be used in MGNREGA (currently in pre-production) to improve the implementation of the scheme and prevent frauds like impersonation. This will ensure that the benefits of the scheme are reaching the intended beneficiaries.

(h) Financial Services, Telecoms and others

- Banking/Finance (NBFC's): Face Authentication is used in customer account opening & banking related service delivery for various banks which provides ease of use and hassle-free banking to the customers. Many banks are using face authentication in AePS transactions (deposit and withdrawals). In addition NBFC's are using Face Authentication for customer's e-KYC. A total of 30.07 lakh transactions have taken place in the current financial year using face authentication covering all banks on boarded to use face authentication.

- Telecom: Telecom service providers are using face authentication for customer's e-KYC to issue Sims. A total of 6 crore transactions have taken place in the FY 2023-24 covering all telecom service providers”.

**105.** Regarding action taken under Good Governance, the following were submitted:-

“(a). Welfare of Pensioners: Jeevan Pramaan provides a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners to generate digital life certificate (DLC). Face authentication in Jeevan Pramaan was launched during October,2021 to facilitate pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization for generation of Digital Life Certificate using Face Authentication thus promoting

"Ease of living". During FY 2023-24, in DLC 2.0 campaigning 15 Lac+ pensioners generated digital life certificate using face authentication.

(b). Skill Development: U.P.Skill Development Mission uses face authentication for the attendance of candidates enrolled in skilling activities majorly in jails for prisoners in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Total 1.51Lakh transactions have been recorded in FY 23-24.

(c). Employee Attendance: State Govt offices and central Govt departments are using Face Authentication to mark attendance from their personal devices and hence avoiding the touch factor at the terminals avoiding wait time and queue's in the peak office hours".

**106.** With respect to substantial gap between the amount proposed and allocation made at BE during 2024-25, the Committee sought to know the steps that were being taken by the Ministry to ensure adequate availability of funds during 2024-25 and to this the Ministry replied as under:-

"MeitY has allocated ₹ 800.00 crore in R.E 2023-24 for UIDAI against the total requirement of ₹ 1837.14 crore projected by UIDAI. The allocation of ₹ 800.00 crore for the F.Y. 2023-24 was not sufficient to meet the requirements of UIDAI as the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1396.22 crore. An excess amount of Rs. 596.22 crore was met from its internal resources of UIDAI. (Rs. 1396.22 cr. – Rs. 800 cr.)"

**107.** Submitting the major impediments that were being encountered by UIDAI and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry stated:-

"1. Mandatory biometric update (MBU): Non-turnaround of children on attaining the age of 5 and 15 years to update his biometrics in Aadhaar. To address the issue UIDAI is conducting targeted enrolment camps for Mandatory Biometric update of children in Schools.

2. UIDAI envisioned an alternative mode of authentication for individuals who were unable to use their fingerprint or IRIS due to worn-out finger minutiae (common with manual labours) and IRIS template issues. Face authentication serves as a most preferred mode of authentication giving higher success rate as compared to other modalities.

3. In the Aadhaar authentication ecosystem, registered devices (RDs) have evolved from L0 to L1 registered devices to enhance security and reduce the risks of tampering or fraud. Initially, L0 devices are operated, where devices like

biometric scanners directly interfaced with applications without stringent checks. However, as concerns grew around spoofing and misuse, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced the L1 registered devices.

4. A committee was constituted to study the best practice in finger print biometric authentication. A PoC was conducted for 2 lakh citizens who have performed authentication transaction recently. The same transactions were repeated to check the efficacy of new authentication flow. The AI/ML team developed a fingerprint matching model, which can supplement the current third-party SDK, enhancing the authentication success rate. The implementation of this model has resulted in the growth of Authentication success from 77% to 84%”.

**108.** Elaborating on targets set during 2024-25 and the measures being taken to achieve the targets under UIDAI, the Ministry inter-alia stated as under:-

“Following targeted activities have been undertaken:

- 1 Target to cover 20% of the left out biometric cases on attaining the age of 7 years i.e approx 2 cr. Target shall be achieved through conducting targeted enrolment camps for Mandatory Biometric update of children in Schools.
2. Launching of eKYC Setu for easy onboarding of RBI, SEBI, RBI PFRDA & IRDAI regulated entities. Formulation of Agreement between NPCI and reporting entity along with application form to be facilitated.
3. New prominent domains to be covered as use cases for use of Aadhar Authentication facilities.
4. On-boarding of IRDAI regulated entities, RBI regulated NBFCs and IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority) as a requesting entity for performing Aadhaar authentication under Section 4(4)(b)(i) of Aadhaar Act,2016.
5. Rollout of revised on-boarding agreement and on-boarding application form for Authentication Service Agencies (ASA).
6. Revision and rollout of on-boarding application form and joint undertaking for faster and time bound onboarding of Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA.
7. Revision and rollout of Authentication Service Agencies (ASA) audit compliance checklist for IS audit.
8. To map 100+ DBT and Good Governance based Schemes under Central and State Government based ministries, departments and other entities
9. Aim to cover and onboard respective department of each and every state/ UT as AUA/KUA.

10. Launching of playbook on face authentication by the UIDAI at the Global Fintech Festival "GFF" 2024. The playbook covers a brief overview of Aadhaar-based authentication in the country, followed by the adoption numbers on face authentication and its advantages over other modalities. The playbook also includes some prerequisites, technical requirements, and workflows for the integration of face authentication for AUAs/KUAs/Sub-AUAs/Sub-KUAs.

11. Latest version of face authentication V1.1.1 launched in Aug 2024, provide a seamless face based biometric authentication in self-assisted mode. It is expected that face authentication transactions will increase by 40 % in FY 2024-25 as compared to FY 23-24. As on 09th Sept 2024, total 78 entities are on-boarded for using face authentication.

12. The migration of L0 finger print devices to L1 finger print devices will be done by FY 24-25.

13. To advise SEBI regulated KYC Registration Agency's to become KUA and other regulated entities to onboard through KYC Registration Agency's (KRA's) as Sub KUA.

14. Organizing "Aadhaar Samvaad-2024" at Mumbai and Bengaluru to bring stakeholders from various industries comprising financial institutions, banks, insurance companies, fintechs, telecom service providers, etc to discuss on measures for enhancing Aadhaar usage in availing of banking, financial services, insurance and telecom services by the end users".

**109.** In view of finding major activities of Enrolment and Updated Division under UIDAI as framing of policies for E&U in Aadhaar, enhancement in Enrolment and update software and onboarding of Registrars and EAs, the Committee wanted to know the issues related to data Sovereignty and Data Deletion as these are huge in number and often go unnoticed by the user. To this query of the Committee, the Ministry made the following submissions:-

"Data sovereignty and data deletion are critical issues in the realm of data protection that require careful consideration from both individuals and organizations. Individuals often lack awareness of their rights and the implications of data protection practices, while organizations face significant challenges in ensuring compliance of existing regulatory framework and protecting user personal data.

The policies of the Government of India are aimed at ensuring that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable to all our individuals. The Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and

sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 made under Information Technology Act, 2000 is the existing regulatory framework for the protection of sensitive personal data. In order to safeguard the personal data of individuals (Data Principals) and ensure that their data is shared only with their consent, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) has been enacted on August 2023. The DPDP Act is a legal framework which regulates the processing of digital personal data.

The DPDP Act permits processing of personal data without seeking consent of the Data Principal for certain legitimate uses, including in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the State and under certain emergent situations.

The Data Principals may exercise certain rights with respect to their personal data, including correction, completion, updation or erasure of personal data. The data principal may request for erasure of their personal data which is no longer necessary for the purpose for which it was processed unless retention is necessary for a legal purpose”.

**110.** On the issue of duplicity of Aadhaar and other related problems, the following measures taken by the Ministry in this regard were submitted:-

“i. UIDAI has deployed robust Biometric De-duplication systems to identify duplicates. For this purpose, UIDAI has onboarded ABIS (Automated Biometric Identification system) from 3 different vendors to ensure the highest levels of accuracy, availability and performance.

ii. All enrolment / biometric update packets are templated using proprietary algorithms of 3 ABIS vendors and stored in respective ABIS gallery in anonymized form by linking the biometrics of residents to reference ID.

iii. Further, the biometric update packets and new enrolment packets are sent for de-duplication to any one of the ABIS system after various other quality checks. Such biometrics are checked with all existing templates in ABIS gallery to find whether packet is unique or it has any match. Further decision is taken based on the response received from all the ABIS.

iv. Demographic de-duplication (DDC) is part of enrolment processing and is used primarily to catch trivial duplicates (non-fraudulent cases where certain demographic fields are identical) that are inadvertently submitted to the system, e.g., when a resident has not received Aadhaar number in a few days and decides to re-enrol at an enrolment station again. It is also used to de-duplicate children under the age of 5 years as biometrics data is not captured for children of that age and residents for whom no biometrics data is captured (genuine biometric exception cases). All the duplicates identified by DDC goes through biometric de-duplication (DBD) 1: N(few) or face match (For children < 5 years of age). All confirmed duplicates are rejected at this stage itself and do not go further for ABIS (Automated biometric identification system) for 1: N match”.



(v) **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Information**

111. The budgetary allocation and utilization with respect to Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Information Scheme during the last four years and BE for the current year are as follows:-

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Proposed</b>	0.00	100.00	51.00	44.00	20.00
<b>BE</b>	0.00	50.00	100.00	44.00	20.00
<b>RE</b>	20.00	48.00	72.00	29.50	
<b>Actual</b>	20.00	37.00	0.00	23.90	
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100	77	0	81	

112. Describing the major activities of the Institute and major targets and achievements during 2023-24, the Ministry made the following submission:-

“Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) is an Autonomous Scientific Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the MeitY, Government of India to undertake technology development & management, research & development, facilitate National & International cooperation, capacity building and support technology transfer & entrepreneurship development in area of space & geo-spatial technology. BISAG-N has three main domain areas: Satellite Communication, Geo-informatics and Geo-spatial technology.

Some of the key achievements and the activities performed during the FY 2023-24 are as follows:

PM Gatishakti: National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity

BISAG-N has been mandated to develop space and geo-spatial technology based platform for large scale geo spatial multi sector database. Under this initiative, more than 2000 layers and 60 plus analytical tools have been integrated for planning, infrastructure alignment, site suitability, approvals for regulations, synchronization of projects, comprehensiveness, monitoring, etc. for respective ministries and state governments. Through PM Gati Shakti Program, the institutionalization of in-house developed technologies, methodologies has been adopted in almost all the sectors.

Capacity Building and Training: Training of government officials and other stakeholders in the use of GIS, satellite applications, and emerging technologies such as AI and cyber security was taken-up during 2023-24.

SATCOM applications:

Government has established state-of-the-art telecast infrastructure for DTH TV based broadcast. Earlier, BISAG-N made operationalized 12 nos. of “PM eVidya” DTH TV channels as part of "one class, one channel" initiative on behalf of the NCERT, MoE. Keeping in view the success of these 12 “PM eVidya” DTH TV channels for school education and in the true spirit of National Education Policy, as desired by the Ministry of Education, BISAG-N further operationalized 200 TV

channels under ‘PM eVidya’ on 24x7 basis. At present, total 302 DTH TV channels are being telecast using this infrastructure on 24x7 basis which includes SWAYAM Prabha, VANDE Gujarat and DigiShala channels.

BISAG-N has also established content development facility at Delhi which includes two TV studios and editing & animation facility which is being used extensively by different ministries including defense.

#### Defence Applications

BISAG-N has been actively involved in development and implementation of applications for Defence sector of India. It has signed an exclusive MoU for development of GIS and IT based software, generation of customized training content, telecasting audio-visual training content, develop specific projects required by Indian Army in the fields of IT and AI. During the year, BISAG-N supported for the Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) with real-time data analytics, geospatial intelligence and defense infrastructure planning to various defence establishments.

#### Finishing School

This program was initiated to support Engineering graduates across the country. Under this program, the participants are nurtured and groomed with fundamental and advanced technical practical skill sets that are required to achieve a good employability career path. The selected candidates undergo a thorough counselling and mentoring sessions. A remuneration of Rs. 10,000 per month is also being provided to the selected participants.

#### Outreach Programmes

BISAG-N conducted various outreach programmes for school students, faculty, professionals and Government officials highlighting the activities undertaken by BISAG-N. These activities majorly highlight the use of GIS and Geospatial technologies in Government setup for effective planning and implementation of various Government projects”.

**113.** Enlisting the targets set during 2024-25 and the measures being taken to achieve the targets, the Ministry informed the Committee as stated below:-

“The major objective of BISAG-N is to create digital platforms for the government at a low cost of implementation and maintenance in a timely manner. In 2024-25, BISAG-N shall focus on enhancement of PM Gati Shakti NMP, by inclusion of additional components such as coverage of remaining sectors, area development interventions, operationalization at district level etc. through the Geo-AI enabled Multi-sectoral Integrated Decision Support Systems, BISAG-N is also pursuing for strengthening the universalization of quality education through Space Technology by implementing additional educational DTH TV channels.

BISAG-N shall continue to provide IT solutions to defence establishments focusing on real-time data integration for border management, surveillance, and strategic planning including capacity building by training government officials, professionals, and decision-makers in GIS, artificial intelligence, block chain, and cyber security, focusing on implementing these technologies in governance and defense”.

## **VIII. RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY**

**114.** The Ministry stated that CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and counter measures to protect computers and networks on regular basis. Regarding this, the Committee sought to know the new areas of Cyber threats which often go unnoticed by the common man. To this, the Ministry made the following submission:-

“Common users are targeted by threat actors to steal online credentials through Phishing campaigns and emails with social engineering techniques wherein fake websites mimicking genuine websites/brands are created to trick users to divulge credentials. Further, users’ systems / devices which are not patched with latest updates are infected by Malware which exploit vulnerabilities in client systems and applications such as Browsers. Users are also tricked to install fake/malicious Apps on their mobile devices.

It is observed that common man is less privy to cyber security vulnerabilities, and their potential for exploitation by threat actors, in their day to day use devices and software such as Desktops/Laptops, Mobile Phones and Home Routers etc. Measures like use of only genuine and trusted software, keeping the system up to date, using updated antivirus and adherence to basic cyber hygiene practices reduces the threat to a greater extent”.

**115.** Since E-Governance initiatives are considered essential for development of digital infrastructure to bring technology parity at national level and to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through digital infrastructure, digital services, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide, the Committee sought to know how far the Ministry had been able to breach the Digital Gap/divide in the country. To this query, the following submission was made:-

“The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) through its e-Governance initiatives has made commendable progress in addressing the digital divide. According to the latest e-Government Development Index(EGDI) report, India ranked 28th out of 193 United Nations member states in e-Government literacy indicator, which assesses the capacity of all population segments, particularly vulnerable groups, to fully utilize available e-government services and participate in e-governance opportunities.

India is among the leading nations in providing accessible and inclusive digital services to all segments of society. Having ranked “44th” out of “193” United Nations member states in the Online Service Index (OSI), India demonstrates significant progress in bridging the digital divide through its range of government-provided online services.

To further enhance the usability of government portals and websites, Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) were established. It fosters an inclusive

digital environment where all citizens can easily access government information. Additionally, incorporating best practices for the User interface and user experience via UI/UX 4G initiatives are also undertaken.

The Government Pillar of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Digital Development Compass emphasizes the role of governments in establishing policies, frameworks, and systems that enhance the responsible use of digital technologies for public good. India scored the “4.56” score out of “5” with differentiating rating in the areas of Leadership and Strategy, Implementation Capacity and Systems and Digital Public Services and Platforms. It reiterates the efforts of MeitY in working towards bridging the gap and leaving no one behind, as per Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10”.

**116.** The Committee asked the Ministry to highlight the programmes that were being implemented in the remotest location of the country while taking into account the issues like digital literacy, digital connectivity, accessibility to services, ease in availing the digital services and the awareness. To this, the Ministry provided the following details:-

“Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been set up under and by the initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is the implementing agency. The CSC initiative aims to deliver e-services to rural citizens through CSCs and expand the CSC network till the Gram Panchayat level. Over 400 services are being delivered through CSCs, including government services, financial services and services related to Aadhaar, various social welfare schemes, education, tele-medicine, travel bookings, utility payments. As on August 2024, 5.88 lakh CSCs are functional across the country in rural and urban areas, out of which 4.67 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat/village level (rural).

Many other initiatives, such as Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), DigiLocker, e-Hospital, MyGov, eScholarship, Myscheme and MeriPehchaan, etc. also enable access to various e-services using information technology”.

**117.** The Ministry in their submission to the Committee had stated that in order to leverage various support promotion of IT Industry beyond metro cities, Scheme to promote India as global brand in Information Technology, Software Product Innovation & Research Programme under National Policy on Software Product (RAPID), Establishment of Super Innovation Cluster under NPSP, draft New National IT Policy, GCC and ER&D Schemes are under formulation. In this regard, the Committee sought from the Ministry the latest status of these plans and what criteria had been set to choose areas beyond metro cities to be covered under these schemes. Replying to this, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“These above mentioned newly proposed programmes are in initial stages of prior research and stakeholder consultations, even though initial draft at division level have been attempted, these programmes need to go to several levels of stakeholder consultations and approvals and budget allocations before actual implementation.

**Criteria for beyond metro:** The Software Industry Promotion Division has been focusing on regional balanced growth and expansion of IT/ITES industry beyond metro location through its 57 STPI centres in non-metro locations out of total 65 STPI centres across the country, and many programmes such as Indian BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS), Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Production Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH), etc where programmes are specially designed for growth of IT ecosystem beyond metro location and increased Viability Gap Funding for non-metro locations. In spite of many promotions scheme, an organization i.e. IT Company chooses to establish its operation based on various techno-commercial consideration”.

The feasibility criteria for establishing STPI centre mentioned below provides various consideration for the growth of IT ecosystem beyond metro locations:

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Feasibility criteria for setting up of STPI Centre</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Industrial Infrastructure</b> Power availability Availability of water, gas and other utilities Public and Private transport Airport (Domestic/International)/Rail/Road connectivity Existing Industrial Base
<b>2</b>	<b>Human Resources</b> High level IT Skilled Manpower availability (B.Tech/MCA) ITeS Human Resources Entrepreneurship International Language Skills Industrial and work culture
<b>3</b>	<b>Social Infrastructure</b> Civic Services Education for Children Health Care facility Recreation and Cultural facility
<b>4</b>	<b>Business Environment</b> Availability of Venture Capital, Financial and banking Institutions Law and Order
<b>5</b>	<b>IT Infrastructure</b> Developed land/Ready built up space facilities for IT industries Fibre network and connectivity to cable landing stations IT Users/Internet Users/Cyber Cafe Vendor Presence (H/W, S/W)
<b>6</b>	<b>State Government IT Policy, Pro-activeness and Receptiveness</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>NRI Linkage and other Special Package</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Cost of Living and setting up of Operations</b>

**118.** The Ministry has launched a project of Bhashini to extend the effort to 22 scheduled languages and is being initiated which aims at removing language barrier among all major Indian languages, particularly in the domains of governance and policy, science and engineering, education, healthcare etc. The Committee taking note of this

project, wanted the Ministry to elucidate whether there were plans to include regional languages with the help of Large Language Models (LLMs) in coming years and to this the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Under Mission Bhashini, the 22 regional languages of India and recognized in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution i.e Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu, are part of the plan to develop translation models. Currently MeitY is evaluating inclusion of regional languages in Large Language Models (LLMs) as per the market requirements”.

**119.** According to the National Crime records Bureau (NCRB), cyber related child pornography cases in India have surged by 400% over the past decade. Taking notice of this alarming situation, the Committee wanted the Ministry to explain how it intended to tackle this alarming situation. To this, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

i. MeitY has placed immense thrust on building a safe, trusted, and accountable internet for all including vulnerable groups including children and women while designing policies and drafting regulations. Pursuant to the powers provided under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, (IT Act), and after undertaking broad consultations with stakeholders, the MeitY framed the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) and amended these Rules in year 2022 and subsequently in year 2023.

ii. The IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021 consider the publication or transmission of obscene material as well as sexually explicit content in electronic form as cybercrime and provides for penalty and punishment for such acts.

iii. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the IT Act penalises publishing or transmitting material that is obscene, containing sexually explicit act, etc., and depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form, respectively. Any offence under section 67 is punishable with imprisonment up to three years and with fine up to Rupees five lakh on first conviction and five years and with fine up to Rupees ten lakh on subsequent conviction, whereas, offences under sections 67A and 67B are punishable with imprisonment up to five years along with fine up to Rupees ten lakh on first conviction and seven years and with fine up to Rupees ten lakh on subsequent conviction. Notably, acts/cybercrimes covered under sections 67, 67A, and 67B are cognizable offences. The punishment under the IT Act complements provisions on the subject in other laws such as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (“BNS”; Erstwhile Indian Penal Code, 1860) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) which also penalise the sale, distribution etc. of obscene books and content, including those depicting children. Under Section 15 of POCSO, storage of child pornographic

materials with the intent to publish or share the same is punishable with imprisonment of up to five years along with fine.

iv. The IT Act along with the IT Rules, 2021 cast an obligation on the intermediaries to undertake due diligence. In case of failure to observe due diligence as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 79 of the IT Act shall not be applicable to such intermediary and the intermediary shall be liable for punishment under any law for the time being in force including the provisions of the Act and the Indian Penal Code.

v. The IT Rules, 2021 aim to empower the ordinary users and provides for a grievance redressal mechanism that is user friendly and streamlined to receive and resolve complaints from the users or victims within the prescribed time frames. A user can approach Grievance Officer of the intermediary to perform the functions prescribed under the provisions relating to the Grievance Redressal Mechanism in the IT Rules.

vi. The IT Rules, 2021 provide users with an avenue to appeal with the establishment of Grievance Appellate Committee(s) (GAC) to allow users to appeal against decisions taken by Grievance Officers on such complaints.

vii. Keeping in view complaints regarding action or inaction, on the part of the social media intermediaries and other intermediaries on user grievances regarding objectionable content or suspension of their accounts, the Central Government has established three (3) Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) under Rule 3A of the said rules to enable users to appeal against the decisions taken by the Grievance Officer of intermediaries on user complaints.

viii. In addition, under the Code of Ethics prescribed in the Part III of IT Rules, 2021, publishers of an online content curator are required to classify all content transmitted or published or exhibited by them, based on the nature and type of content, into various rating categories, including content suitable for children, content suitable for persons aged 7 years or 13 years or 16 years and above or persons under the said ages with parental guidance, and to display such classification. Furthermore, they are required to restrict access to certain types of curated content by a child by implementing appropriate access control measures.

ix. It is reiterated that intermediaries are under a mandate as per Section 79(3) (b) of the IT Act read with Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules 2021 to ensure expeditious action, well within the timeline of 36 hours stipulated under the IT Rules, 2021, to remove or disable access to information/content that violates the aforesaid provisions of the IT Rules, 2021, upon receipt of court orders or notice from the Appropriate Government or its authorised agency.

x. Further, section 69A of the IT Act and associated rules, the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by

Public) Rules, 2009 provides power and outlines the procedure for the Central Government to issue directions for blocking for access of information through any computer resource if it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

xi. MeitY also issues advisories and notices as relevant and required from time to time to reiterate the obligations cast on intermediaries and to clarify its position on new and evolving technology and relates issues”.

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## PART-II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

1. Demand No.27 pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics & IT has been allocated a total outlay of Rs. 21,936.90 crore for the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25. Out of the total outlay, Rs. 21,355.89 crore has been earmarked for Revenue Expenditure and Rs.581.01 crore under Capital Expenditure. A comparative analysis of the Budget Estimate of the Ministry from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 shows an increasing trend of allocation viz.Rs.6,899.03 crore, Rs.9,720.66 crore, Rs.14,300 crore, Rs.16,549.04 crore and Rs.21,936.90 crore, respectively. The Financial Year-wise allocation percentage indicates variations from 3.68% in 2020-21, 40.90% in 2021-22, 47.11% in 2022-23, 15.73 % in 2023-24 and 32.56% in 2024-25.

The Committee note that during FY 2023-24 even though the Budget Estimate was Rs.16,549.04 crore and Revised Estimate was Rs.14,421.25 crore, the Ministry could utilize Rs.12,847.12 crore only thereby surrendering Rs.1,574.13 crore from the Revised Estimate. Similarly, under Modified Programme for Development of Semi-Conductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India, during FY 2023-24, out of Rs.1503.36 crore allocated, the Actual Expenses as on 31-3-2024 indicates that the Ministry could spend only Rs.681.11 crore, thus surrendering a staggering 55% of the allotted fund. Surrendering of funds beyond 50% of the funds allocated reflects upon improper planning by the Ministry. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons for non- utilization of precious allocated funds which could have been allotted to other Ministries for its effective utilisation. The Committee therefore urge the Ministry to ensure that realistic projections are made in future as far as possible and ensure optimal utilization of funds by way of better planning and robust monitoring mechanism with learnings from past experience.

2. A comparison of the allocation of funds for the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) from Budget Estimates during last five years shows a gradual decline. While comparing BE 2023-24 with the BE 2024-25, it is observed that the percentage reduction is from Rs.940 crore to Rs.600 crore which comes to 36%. In the light of this observation, the Committee not only would like to know

the reasons for such a huge reduction in allocation of funds under UIDAI but also advise the Ministry to have better planning so that such a steep reduction be countered in coming Financial Years. The Committee would also like to know how this steep reduction under this Head would affect the performance of the Ministry under various components of this scheme.

3. The Committee observe that under Digital India Programme, one of the flagship programmes of Govt of India, shows a gradual decrease in allocation of funds from Budget Estimate 2021-22 to BE 2024-25 and underutilization by the Ministry over the years. For the financial year 2024-25, the Committee observe that out of proposed amount of Rs 5592.75 crores, only Rs 4768.26 crores have been made available. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons for such reduced allocation of funds under the Digital India Programme and underutilization by the Ministry. Since Digital India Programme is an important flagship programme of the Ministry, the Committee would like to know how this reduced allocation is going to affect the digital India Movement.

4. The Committee do note that primary challenges faced for implementation of Electronics Governance Scheme are digital literacy, digital connectivity, accessibility to services, ease in availing the digital services and the awareness/readiness amongst the Departments to adopt the services and besides these challenges, the digital divide gap is also attributed to the fact that many citizens belonging to the weaker sections are deprived of availing the digital services. The Committee were given to understand that Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been set up by the initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to deliver e-services to rural citizens through CSCs and expand the CSC network till the Gram Panchayat level and as on August 2024, 5.88 lakh CSCs are functional across the country in rural and urban areas, out of which 4.67 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat/village level (rural). The Committee would like to know the latest status of operationalization of CSCs all across the country. Further, the Committee recommend that apart from current services delivered by CSCs, the Ministry should include more number of services taking into account proliferation of technological changes in day-to-day lives of common man.

## **NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE (NIC) - ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

5. NIC has been responsible for country-wide implementation of various e-Governance projects including many Mission Mode Projects of the Department. Jeevan Pramaan Portal, e-Shram, e-Challan, e-Invoice system, One Nation One Card, PM Kisan, e-Hospital, e-Office, National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), e-Courts, Case Information System (CIS), National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), e-Filing 3.0, National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), Digital Sansad etc are some of the major ICT initiatives taken up by NIC. The Ministry informed the Committee about the upgradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipment for cyber security initiatives by NIC for setting up of Security Operation Centres and security audit of all ICT assets of the Ministry. Further, NIC is making best efforts for utilizing the funds allocated for up-gradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipment for cyber security, setting up of Security Operation Centres and security initiatives during the Financial Year 2024-25.

The Committee observe that the Capital provision in BE 2024-25 has been increased by Rs.212.33 crore from that provided in BE 2023-24 due to projection of more funds by NIC for the abovesaid requirements. The Committee recommend that the increased amount must be used optimally and surrender of funds be avoided to the maximum extent possible. The Ministry may submit a copy of existing policy guidelines regarding E-mails and also update regarding latest developments in this field.

6. Observing that the Operating System developed by India is not as popular and in use as Windows and Android, the Committee would like to be apprised of the possibilities of India developing its own operating system at par with the popular ones so that dependency on other nations can be reduced and protect our vital security documents. Further the Committee would like to be informed about the feasibility of Mobile Voting as India is amongst the largest manufacturer and user of mobile phones.

7. The Committee were apprised by the Ministry that NIC is trying its level best for utilizing the funds allocated for up-gradation of Data Centres, procurement of ICT equipments for cyber security, setting up of Security Operation Centres and

security initiatives during the Financial Year 2024-25. The Committee feel that NIC needs sufficient funding to maintain its ICT infrastructure and support constant innovations. Therefore, the Committee desire the Ministry may seek additional funds as and when required so as to ensure seamless flow of work under these schemes. The Committee also desire to know how many Data Centres have been upgraded and whether the equipments procured for cyber security have been fully utilized and operationalized. If not, the Ministry may furnish a detailed reply highlighting the reasons and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by them. The Committee further seek to know the details of working of Security Operation Centres and security initiatives undertaken during financial year 2024-25 by the Ministry.

8. As NIC is implementing many important schemes of the Government of India under the digital India Programme, the Committee desire that the Ministry may look into the possibility of creating a separate IT Cadre under it for effective supervision and implementation of the schemes and also to augment skilled IT professionals who can develop and manage advanced ICT projects and support Digital initiatives of the Government.

#### **STANDARDISATION, TESTING & QUALITY CERTIFICATION (STQC) – ESTABLISHMENT AND MANPOWER**

9. Standardization, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, an attached office of the Ministry, provides testing, calibration, training and certification services to the industry and Government for assuring quality and reliability of electronics and Information Technology (IT) products. The Ministry informed the Committee, while deliberating on targets and measures taken to achieve those in Financial Year 2024-25, that approx. 150 Science and Technology (S&T) and Non-S&T candidates are to be recruited in upcoming year on direct recruitment basis and the vacancies have already been forwarded to NIELIT and SSC. The Committee were further informed that in order to construct STQC Building at Sector, 62, Noida that Structure Stability test has already been completed and CPWD is scheduled to complete the building by November, 2025. Further, a STQC Lab automation project is planned and a New STQC Website to comply with GIGW 3.0 is under development.

The Committee observe that STQC plays a crucial role in assuring quality and reliability of IT products. Considering the shortfall in human resource, the Committee would like know since when the request for recruitment of 150 Science and Technology and Non- Science and Technology candidates is pending before NIELIT and SSC and action taken by them to follow it up. The Committee desire that the matter may constantly be pursued with them. They may also be informed of the measures contemplated by the Ministry to achieve the set targets under STQC.

10. The Committee would also like the Ministry to update about the status of work of STQC Building in Noida as it is scheduled to be completed by November, 2025. Further, the status of constitution of autonomous project of STQC Lab and STQC website may also be furnished along with the launching of Data Centres Certification Scheme. The Committee would also like to know whether the Ministry would be able to complete these important projects within the allocated funds or they require additional funds for the same. In latter case, the Committee desire that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance timely so that there is no time and cost overrun.

11. The Committee observe that under STQC, procurement of environmental test facilities for 11 centres is in progress and remaining test facilities such as EMI/EMC (Electromagnetic Interference/ Electromagnetic Compatibility), safety, smart energy meter are proposed to be procured during this year. The Committee wish to know about the progress made in this regard in all 11 centres and the status of remaining test facilities at the earliest.

12 The Committee note that in STQC, process of filling up of 78 posts of Scientific Assistants is underway and 76 Group 'C' (Technical) recruitment is in process. The committee recommend that these posts should be filled up at the earliest as these posts are technical in nature and in absence of technical manpower, STQC is unlikely to deliver the desired results/outputs.

13. The Committee observe that STQC is in the process of seeking exemption from "Make in India" in GFR for high value procurements. The Committee urge to be apprised of developments made in this regard.

## **CERT-IN AND THE ISSUES OF MANPOWER**

14. According to the Ministry, CERT-In is a Government Organisation designated to serve as a national agency for incident response. It operates 24\*7 incident response Help Desk for providing timely response to reported Cyber Security incidents. It is to provide Incident Prevention and Response Services as well as Security Quality Management Services. For performing functions in the area of Cyber Security it collects, analyses and disseminates information on Cyber Security incidents; forecasts and alerts Cyber Security incidents; formulates emergency measures for handling Cyber Security incidents, coordinates Cyber Security incident response activities; issues guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents. To the query of the Committee regarding the major impediments that were being encountered by the Ministry in respect of its functioning, it was stated that CERT-In is in urgent need of additional manpower to keep up with rapid increase in the incidents of Cyber Security attacks/threats. Further, the Ministry also submitted that manpower crunch has been felt owing to the urgent nature of incident response activities including onsite response, to sustain key current as well as planned new activities/projects and to address Cyber Security issues pertaining to emerging technologies and areas. The Committee are given to understand that in order to meet the challenge, CERT-In has moved a proposal for creation of additional posts at various levels. Further, the Committee are also informed that Department of Expenditure after examining the proposal has sought certain details from MeitY which has been submitted. The Committee are of the view that a lot more need to be done to improve our cyber security through several initiatives and policies including capacity building and training programmes. However, these efforts would remain inadequate and fragmented unless India is equipped with adequate technical staff, cyber forensics facilities, cyber security standards and coordination amongst various stakeholders. The Committee therefore, urge the Ministry to pay adequate attention to these suggestions take timely action and update them accordingly.

15. The Committee are also given to understand that CERT-In has operationalized the NCCC project in order to generate situational awareness of existing and potential Cyber Security threats for enabling timely information

sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Under Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP), the Ministry has initiated two projects for setting up of digital office and awareness and planning an R&D scheme for DPDP followed by a few brainstorming sessions with academicians and eminent experts to filter-in the industry oriented viable areas. Given the need of the hour, the Committee would like to impress upon the Ministry to implement these projects in right earnest and ensure that the intended objectives are achieved on time.

16. The Ministry apprised the Committee that CERT-In has setup State-of-the art Cyber Forensic Lab to support incident response operation of CERT-In as well as the needs of various Law Enforcement agencies. The Committee wish to know how far this Lab has been able to meet the pre-requisite demand. Further, the Committee wish to know whether the private agencies as well as an individual can also have the benefit of incident response operation done by Cyber Forensic Lab.

17. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that CERT-In has setup National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. The phase I of NCCC has been operationalized in July 2017. The Committee note that it has been 8 years since the operationalization of phase I of NCCC and in view of that, the Committee wish to know whether the Ministry have any plan to roll out next phases of NCCC. The Committee also would like to know the experience of the Ministry about Phase I of NCCC and a few cases where the common man could be benefitted by this initiative.

### **ELECTRONIC GOVERNANCE AND THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION**

18. While examining Electronic Governance in India, the Ministry informed that it is currently facing multipronged problems i.e., the issues of digital literacy, digital connectivity, accessibility to services, and ease in availing the digital services and the awareness / readiness amongst the Departments to adopt the services. Besides these challenges, the digital divide gap is also attributed to the fact that many citizens belonging to the weaker sections are deprived of availing the digital services.

The Committee note that the Government has already taken necessary measures to tackle these challenges through implementing “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India and BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country with 100 Mbps connectivity. Along with it, the Government is also providing the services in assisted mode through Common Service Centres (CSCs) to digitally illiterate people and taking steps through various other channels also. Moreover, Government is striving hard to create awareness amongst citizens through various modes including social media platforms as well as the departments for on boarding and consumption of the digital services. The Committee also observe that as on August 2024, 5.88 lakh CSCs are functional across the country in rural and urban areas, out of which 4.67 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat/village level (rural).

To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the Committee understand the importance of the role of Electronic Governance Scheme which is not only pivotal but also inevitable. Taking into cognizance the fact that the Ministry is implementing myriad schemes for digital empowerment of the citizens of the country, they would like to know by when all the Gram Panchayats of the country would be provided with Net Connectivity and how the Ministry intends to overcome the resultant challenges. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry may look into the feasibility of using popular means of communications like street plays, folk arts and cultural programmes so as to attract and digitally empower common man. Further, the Committee would like to call upon the Ministry to expedite the process of making CSCs functional in all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country within a stipulated time frame.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING & SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

19. The Committee note that under the Capacity Building & Skill Development Scheme, the activities are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of Electronics and IT industry. The initiatives taken by the Ministry in this regard include identifying gaps emerging from the formal sector and planning programmes in non- formal and formal sectors for meeting these gaps. This includes Skill Development in the domain of Electronics & IT and related areas. The Ministry has submitted that various schemes/projects pertaining to Human Resource Development for



Electronics and IT sector were approved/under implementation. The Committee would like the Ministry to implement the schemes/projects that have been approved at the earliest and those that are under implementation, be completed within the set timelines. Further, with respect to challenges regarding connectivity and availability of infrastructure in hilly/sparse/remote areas, the Committee have been apprised that Wifi-Chaupals have been established at remote locations, rural schools have been engaged for training and the promotional and awareness activities have been scaled through workshops. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of those measures and how far the challenges have been overcome.

### **NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (NKN)**

20. National Knowledge Network (NKN) approved by Cabinet Committee of Infrastructure (CCI) in March, 2010, is an innovative, cutting-edge, robust and secured network. It aims to provide a centralized multi-gigabit high-speed digital connectivity backbone for research and educational institutions and Government organisations spread across India. NIC is the implementing agency and it was to be implemented over a period of 10 years at an outlay of Rs. 5990 crore. Subsequently, it has been extended till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 with a revised outlay of Rs. 6956.88 crore. Further, it is seen that during Financial Year 2024-25, against the proposed BE of Rs. 925.00 crore, only Rs. 240.26 crore has been allotted. The Ministry has informed the Committee that in order to ensure adequate availability of funds, efforts would be made to seek additional funds in RE 2024-25. The Committee opine that this Network should be adequately funded and the intended objectives be achieved. Since the proposed deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, the Committee would like to be enlightened about the present status of the Network and the expected time of its completion.

21. The Ministry apprised the Committee that the National Knowledge Network (NKN) aimed to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research by inter-connecting all knowledge institutions across the country through a high-speed data communication network and as of now, there are total 1796 institutes under NKN with 96 core links and 620 district links. The Committee would like to know what progress has been made to bring all the districts of India under NKN and whether the institutes based in rural areas are given priority to gain from this scheme. The Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that all the stakeholders and

beneficiaries should have access to high speed data communication network to get benefit of NKN Scheme.

## **SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS AND SEMICONDUCTORS (SPECS)**

22. The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) was notified way back on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 to offset disability in the Electronics Components Manufacturing Ecosystem in India. The scheme provides subsidy for capital expenditure of 25% for identified list of electronic goods. The scheme envisaged New Investment in the electronics sector to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore and generation of nearly 1.5 lakh jobs. The scheme duration is till 31.03.2029.

Further, Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme was notified on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012 and the modified EMC was notified on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 to provide financial support for development of quality infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities for attracting electronics manufacturing units in the country through such clusters. The scheme duration is up to March, 2028 and is expected to provide employment to about 10.00 lakh persons. Submitting measures taken to achieve the targets, the Ministry has stated that workshop/meeting with applicant to address their disbursement/appraisal issues are being organized. While being aware of the needs and importance of the Semiconductor industry the Committee desire that the focus should be centred on training and creating the highly skilled human resources required for the industry with an emphasis on R&D and strengthening partnership with countries for necessary supply of raw material and exchange of technology and encourage production of semi-conductors in India. The Committee may be apprised of the achievements made and conducive environment created in this direction.

23. The Committee also learn that under the EMC/EMC 2.0 Scheme, 19 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centres with a project cost of Rs. 3,499 crore including Central Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,470 crore were accorded approval in 15 states across the country with projected targeted investment of Rs. 46,619 crore from units and employment generation of over 6 lakh persons. The Committee wish to know the status of approved Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centres in the said 15 States. The Committee also desire to be enlightened

about the experience of the Ministry with the Greenfield EMCs and constraints, if any, being faced in such projects alongwith the number of people who have been given employment against the said target of 6 lakh persons.

#### **PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (PLI)**

24. The Committee were given to learn that under PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM) and under the Domestic Category for Mobile phones, only 2 applicants are performing out of 5 approved applicants, while in Specified Electronics Category (SEC), only 1 out of 6 applicants from Round I and 11 out of 16 applicants from Round II are performing. The Committee were further informed that MeitY is actively engaging with the applicants to enhance performance and achieve the set targets under the scheme. The Committee may be apprised of the reason of such a dismal performance of PLI in both the above-mentioned categories and efforts made by them to ascertain the reasons for the same and to improve the performance of PLI. The Committee urge the Ministry to inform about the progress made in engaging with applicants to achieve the set target.

25. The Ministry informed the Committee that the PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware is in its nascent phase and companies are taking longer time to meet the threshold criteria. However, MeitY is actively engaging with stakeholders to improve performance and ensure the achievement of the set targets under the PLI Scheme 2.0. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should think for out of box ideas to improve performance of PLI Scheme 2.0 for I.T. Hardware and get the targets in stipulated time period without any further delay. The Ministry may apprise the Committee about the course of action planned by them.

#### **UIDAI – EACH ONE, REACH ONE**

26. The Committee observe that the Ministry is facing a huge challenge of Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU), alternative mode of authentication for individuals who were unable to use their fingerprint or IRIS due to worn-out finger minutiae (common with manual labours) and IRIS template issues. The Committee also note that a study was conducted to find the best practices in finger print biometric authentication. The Committee learn that the Ministry has chalked out targets under UIDAI like a) to map 100+ DBT and Good Governance based Schemes under Central and State Governments based Ministries, Departments

and other entities; b) to aim to cover and onboard respective Department of each and every State/ UT as AUA/KUA - Authentication User Agency/e-KYC User Agency; and c) to effectively implement Demographic de-duplication (DDC) as part of enrolment processing used primarily to catch trivial duplicates (non-fraudulent cases where certain demographic fields are identical) that are inadvertently submitted to the system, e.g., when a resident has not received Aadhaar number in a few days and decides to re-enrol at an enrolment station again. It is also used to de-duplicate children under the age of 5 years as biometrics data is not captured for children of that age and residents for whom no biometrics data is captured (genuine biometric exception cases). Taking note of the abovementioned issues, the Committee would like to be apprised of the strategies of the Ministry to issue Aadhaar cards to only genuine citizens of India and freezing duplicate and forged Aadhaar cards. The Committee would also like to know about the action taken against forged Aadhaar cards being made/issued in connivance with the staff/agencies.

#### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE FUTURE AHEAD**

27. Noting that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making inroads in modern day owing to its efficiency, accuracy, quick decision making and automating repetitive tasks, the Committee observe that in order to keep pace with global competitiveness and to encourage growth of Artificial Intelligence startups and R&D in India, the Government of India have approved the IndiaAI Mission on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Accordingly, a new scheme, IndiaAI Mission has been initiated during financial year 2024-25. The Committee would like to be enlightened about IndiaAI Mission for development of AI in the country.

28. The Committee urge the Ministry that they should make concerted efforts by roping in the State Governments, IITs, IIMs, IISc etc. to develop Artificial Intelligence in India. It will help them to keep abreast of the best practices in terms of what they need to work on, how they need to ramp up their information Technology Departments so as to create a conducive atmosphere and make a dedicated strategy for developing Artificial Intelligence in our country.

29. The Committee understand that AI technologies are already revolutionizing almost every sector today and huge amount of money involved in promoting and developing this technology, would like to know about the action plan of the

**Government to rope in Private Sector willing to contribute by investing in fundamental research in AI. The Committee also urge the Government to enhance expenditure in R& D activities in the field and engage some of the best brains of the country for research purposes with attractive packages. The Committee desire to know whether the Ministry propose to build a research innovations on the lines of IIT, in near future to foster innovation through research. The Committee may also be apprised of the highlights and the gains attained by India during two Summit meetings on AI held recently in India.**

**New Delhi;  
16 December, 2024  
25 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)**

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Communications and Information Technology.**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2024-25) HELD ON  
23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER, 2024**

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The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 from 1250 hours to 1415 hours in Committee Room '2', Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Nishikant Dubey – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Anil Baluni
3. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
4. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
5. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
6. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
7. Shri G. Kumar Naik
8. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
9. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
10. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
11. Shri Devesh Shakya
12. Shri Rajesh Verma

***Rajya Sabha***

13. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
14. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
15. Dr. Sasmit Patra
16. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
17. Shri S. Niranjan Reddy
18. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
19. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
20. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi - Director
3. Shri Rajesh Mohan - Deputy Secretary

## **Representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1. Shri S. Krishnan	Secretary
2. Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar	Additional Secretary
3. Shri Abhishek Singh	Additional Secretary, NeGD/DIC
4. Shri Rajesh Singh	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
5. Shri Sushil Pal	Joint Secretary
6. Shri Sanket S Bhondve	Joint Secretary
7. Shri Akash Tripathi	CEO, MyGov
8. Shri S.K. Marwaha	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
9. Smt. Asha Nangia	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
10. Smt. Savita Utreja	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
11. Smt. Kavita Bhatia	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
12. Shri Deepak Goel	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
13. Shri Sakesh Prasad Singh	Chief Controller of Accounts
14. Shri Amit Agrawal	DG, NIC
15. Dr. Sanjay Bahl	DG, Cert-In
16. Shri Arvind Kumar	Controller of Certifying Authorities
17. Shri M. Vellaipandi	DG, STQC

2. At the outset, the Chairperson, on the behalf of the Committee, welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. After that, the Chairperson sought the reasons for non- utilization of funds that had been allocated to Modified Programme for Development of Semi-Conductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Standardization and Testing and Quality Certificate (STQC) Directorate, Unique Identification Authority of India and Digital India Programme. He opined that these precious allocations could have been allotted to other Ministries for their effective utilization. Further, he wished to know the strategy of the NIC to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds, the activities and output of C-DAC for the last five years. Furthermore, the Chairperson also wanted the Ministry to apprise the Committee about concrete action plan of the Ministry to prevent cyber threats and to secure the cyberspace of country, the efforts of the Data Protection Board which was created under Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, to protect digital personal data of the citizens of the country, output of Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) and Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) during last three years, action plan of the Ministry to make the country self-reliant in the

production of Semi-Conductors and the blue print of India AI Mission for development of AI in the Country.

3. After that, the representative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology made a power-point presentation covering various aspects such as mandate of the Ministry, organizational structure including key organizations, achievements in creating digital infrastructure and offering digital services, promotion of digital payments and achievements in Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.

4. The presentation also gave an overview of programmes already run and new initiatives taken by MeitY such as Digital India Programme, Ease of Living through digital public service delivery, India AI Mission: Democratizing AI, Global AI Leadership, Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Ecosystem etc. The presentation also covered the roadmap for capacity Building & Skill development Scheme, Electronic Governance, National Knowledge Network, Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware manufacturing (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters), Promotion of IT and ITeS, R&d in IT, Electronics and CC&BT, Cyber Security Projects and the Budget provisions for financial year 2024-25.

5. Thereafter, Members sought clarifications on issues such as reduced allocation *vis-à-vis* the proposed amount, under-utilization of the budget allocation during the last years, impact of reduced allocation *vis-à-vis* the proposed amount to Digital India Programme in general and Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing, R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT, National Knowledge Network and Capacity building and Skill Development schemes in particular. The Members also sought to be apprised of overall impact of reduced allocation to important schemes, primary reasons for under/sub-optimal utilization of allocated funds, steps to address the same and focus areas for the Ministry in this year's Demands for Grants etc.

6. Members also raised queries relating to Budgetary allocation towards promotion of digital payments, capacity augmentation of National Data Centre (NDC), reduced allocation to UIDAI, overall initiatives to meet the growing challenges in securing the cyberspace including necessary amendments to the IT Act and the recent thrust on development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in India, lack of provision for reconciliation of deaths in UIDAI database, too much centralization of data in the form of Aadhaar having linkages with most other documents and services, lack of coordination amongst different agencies such as MHA(I4C), RBI, banks, financial intermediaries and CERT-In etc. which were responded to by the representatives of the Ministry.

7. The Members also stressed upon the need to focus on cyber security in general and online security measures for digital payments in particular along with an underlying need to develop a victim-centric approach in cases of digital payment related frauds which were increasing day by day. Members also sought inputs on initiatives to publicize



Mission Digital India Bhashini and success stories in the IT startup space, simplify NIC products such as email, SANDES, e-portal for Members of Parliament etc. to make them more user friendly and easy to use. The Ministry took note of the concerns and suggestions made by the Committee.

8. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry for deposing before the Committee and directed that written replies to points on which information was not readily available may be furnished to the Committee within ten days.

The witnesses then withdrew.

Verbatim Proceedings of the sitting have been kept on record.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(2024-25)**

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Monday, the 16 December, 2024 from 1015 hours to 1045 hours in Committee Room No. 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
3. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
4. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
5. Shri G. Kumar Naik
6. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
7. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
8. Shri Devesh Shakya
9. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma

***Rajya Sabha***

10. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
11. Dr. Sasmit Patra
12. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
13. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
14. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                  |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal   | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Rajesh Mohan   | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt one draft Action Taken Report on Fifty-Seventh

Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) relating to the Department of Posts and four draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2024-25) relating to the Ministries/Department under the jurisdiction of Committee.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following five draft Reports for consideration and adoption:-

(i) XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX

(ii) XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX

(iii) XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX

(iv) Draft Report on Demand for Grants (2024-25) relating to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

(v) XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX

4. The Committee adopted the Reports without modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Action Taken Reports and present the same to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

6. XXXXXXXX..... XXXXXXXX.....XXXXXXX.....XXXXXXX.....XXXXXX \*

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

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\* Matter not related to the Reports.