

Need for comprehensive measures to put in place the digital literacy programmes in educational and community centres.-laid

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon?ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology to the growing need for promoting digital literacy and awareness among the youth, especially in the context of the rapid proliferation of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain, virtual reality, and robotics. While India has witnessed significant growth in internet access and smartphone usage, a large section of young people, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, still lack the necessary digital skills and awareness to engage meaningfully and safely with these technologies. The absence of adequate digital education poses not only a challenge to equitable access to future employment opportunities but also increases the risk of misinformation, cyberbullying, fraud, and misuse of AI-driven platforms. There is an urgent need for targeted programmes to bridge this digital divide and to ensure that technological advancement becomes a tool of empowerment rather than exclusion. I urge the Government to consider launching structured digital literacy initiatives in schools, colleges, and community centres, including the integration of responsible technology usage into the formal education curriculum. Additionally, measures should be taken to ensure availability of affordable digital devices and internet access in underserved areas.