

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:706
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
MANUFACTURING OF LOW COST COMPUTER
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) whether India and China have decided to cooperate in bridging the digital divide and to produce low cost computers for their rural masses as well as for exports;
- (b) if so, whether a high-level Indian delegation visited China and discussed ways and means to enhance India-China cooperation in IT sector;
- (c) whether India has launched an ambitious plan to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural people;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether India has urged China to pool in their expertise in the hardware sector to meet the requirements of the combined populations of the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PF MAHAJAN)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 706 PARTS (a) TO (e) 15TH MAY, 2002 REGARDING MANUFACTURING OF LOW COST COMPUTER.

(a): During the course of Minister's visit to China in July, 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for bilateral cooperation in the IT sector was signed between India and China.

(b): Recently an official delegation was deputed to China to pursue the matter further.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The two major initiatives of Government of India in regard to bridging the digital divide, consist of setting up Media Lab Asia for delicing emerging technologies in direct services of masses; and setting up 487 Community Information Centres in the eight North Eastern States.

(e): The MoU signed with China in 2000, inter-alia, provides for establishing manufacturing joint venture of information technology equipment.