

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1986
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
PERSONAL COMPUTER TARGETS
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government are considering various measures with a view to achieve a PC penetration target of 20 per thousand population by 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Various measures taken in this regard are:-

- i) Implementation of ISP Policy for expansion of internet in the country.
- ii) Development of software in Indian languages and promotion of content development in Indian languages.
- iii) Promotion of e-commerce. In this regard, Information Technology Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 16th December, 1999.
- iv) To bring down the cost of computers, Government in the recent budget has reduced the duty on finished computer systems from 20% to 15% and on key components of computer from 5% to 0%.
- v) Depreciation on computers has been allowed at the rate of 60%.
- vi) Computer systems have been made freely importable vide EXIM Policy 1997-2002 applicable w.e.f. 1.4.1999.
- vii) The second hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools have been exempted from custom duties.
- viii) Donation of computers, imported duty-free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP to recognized non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, two years after their use by the said units, has been exempted.